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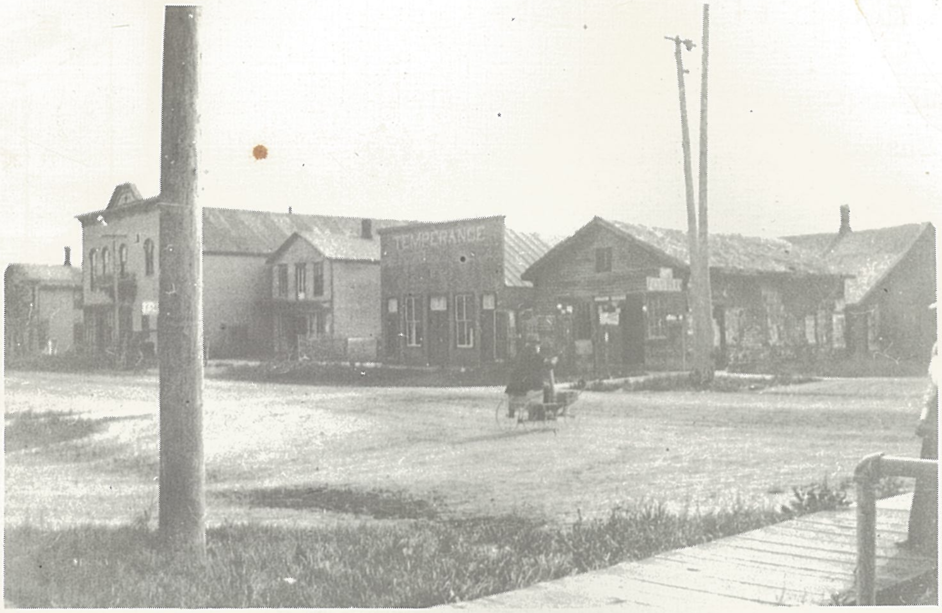

TEMPERANCE

Main Street in the 1800's.

OVID

CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

THEN --- NOW

1836 --- 1967

Main Street - 1967

akke's
Gambles
FOODLAND

LIBERTY FOOD MARKET

REFERENCES

History of Michigan-(Clinton and Shiawassee Counties)
D. W. Ensign & Co. - 1880

Paper Prepared by Ina Woodworth - 1966

Paper Prepared by Dr. B. L. Bates - 1965

Ovid Register Union

State Journal - April, 1955

"Ovid Onward" - Pageant written by Vera Self and Aurabelle Lewis

Copy of Congressional Record Report - Hon. Paul H. Todd, March 16, 1966.

Pamphlet by Michigan Milk Company

Minutes of Village Council

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

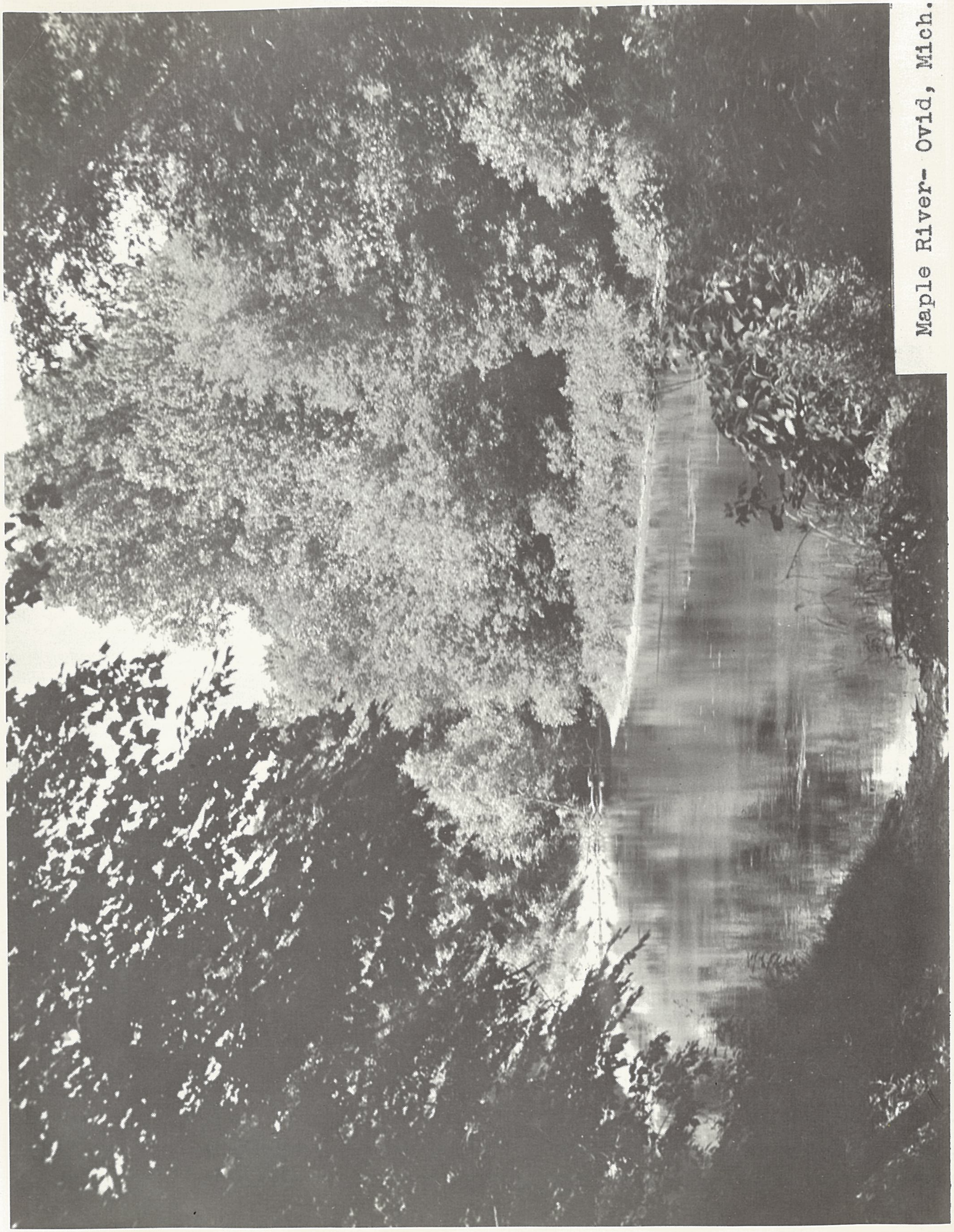
The research and compiling of materials, as well as the written word, done by Mrs. Edna Whittemore, with deep appreciation and gratitude to Mrs. Opal Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Tubbs, Mrs. Ina Woodworth, Mrs. LeRoy Gumaer, Mrs. Elsie Madden, Mrs. Evelyn Craig, Mrs. Sharon VanGeisen, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin, Mr. Harold Beardslee, Mr. Ira Frisbie, Mr. David Houghton, and Dr. B. L. Bates for their valuable assistance.

Many thanks too, to all who contributed pictures for this publication.

Mrs. James Whittemore, co-ordinator of the materials in this book, was born in Victor Township, Clinton County, Michigan. She was graduated from Ovid High School is 1924, receiving her Life Certificate for teaching, from Eastern Michigan University, and her B.S. Degree from Central Michigan University. She has taught in the public schools of Michigan for thirty-seven years, thirty-five of which were spent in the Ovid Public Schools. She retired from the teaching profession in June, 1966.

Mrs. Whittemore has lived in Ovid and the rural area of Ovid all of her life. She and Mr. Whittemore have one son, Lee, a Chemist, who is married and makes his home in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

She was an active member of the Michigan Education Association, the National Education Association and the local chapter of M.E.A., holding various offices in the local and State organizations. She also is a member of the Crescent Club, Order of Eastern Star, United Church, M.E.A. the N.E.A., and the National Retired Teachers Association, as well as being an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma, an International Society of Teachers.


Maple River- Ovid, Mich.

Maple River - Ovid, Mich.

Dedication

H. S. Beardslee

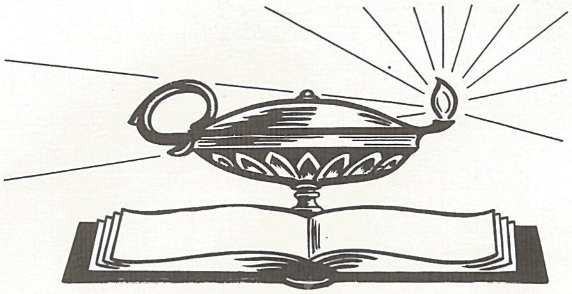
LeRoy Gumaer

The "History of Ovid," is dedicated to Mr. Harold Beardslee, (Mr. Ovid) and to Mr. LeRoy Gumaer by the citizens of Ovid, as an expression of thanks and gratitude to both. Each one has ably carried on the traditions established by his forefathers, who were very active in helping create the new settlement in Ovid. Both Mr. Beardslee and Mr. Gumaer have spent much time and energy in making Ovid a better place in which to live.

Mr. Gumaer literally gave his life in creating the Ovid Park for everyone to enjoy.

Mr. Beardslee has worked diligently for the town in "any" and "every" project set up for the betterment of the community. He has also been vitally interested in all sports activities, and been an ardent supporter.

There are many forms of appreciation but one that exemplifies the lives of both men follows:



THE ART OF LIVING*

To touch the Cup with eager lips

And taste, not drain it;

To woo and tempt and court a bliss

And not attain it;

To fondle and caress a joy,

Yet hold it lightly;

Lest it become necessity

And cling too tightly;

To see the sun sink in the West

Without regretting;

To hail the advent in the East,

The night forgetting;

To have enough to spare,

To know the joy of giving;

To thrill response to every

Sweet of Life-

Is Living!

*Ideal Magazine

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

"The Village of Ovid, a station on the Detroit, Grand Haven, and Milwaukee Railway, and ten miles eastward from St. Johns, the County Seat, is a bright and enterprising town of about 1500 inhabitants; and a point of considerable manufacturing importance. There are several fine business places in the central portion of the town, and it is the center of a rural trade of profitable proportions. The village streets are handsomely shaded, and are, moreover, additionally beautified with many attractive homes. The inhabitants are abreast of the times, and engage with much enterprising spirit in the business of promoting the interests of the village and expanding its value as a trading and manufacturing town."

(These statements seem as true today, as they did when written in 1880.)

Many of the early settlers of the Ovid and surrounding areas, migrated from Ovid, Seneca Falls County, New York.

A Michigan History Volume of Clinton and Shiawassee Counties, edited by D. W. Ensign & Co., states that: "Contrary to the general impression, the pioneer settlement in Ovid, Michigan, was effected by Samuel Barker, in July, 1836. In the drawing of Colony lots, Barker drew a lot in Section 6, of Ovid. He built a log cabin, with bark roof and floor, upon the north townline in that section, where he lived for a short time. He moved to Duplain in December of that year and built another home.

Allen Lounsbery and William Faragher had also taken up some land in July, 1836, in Sections 4 and 6. Lounsbery took his family to Ovid, by ox-team, from New York, in December, and finding Barker's cabin vacated, he took possession of it. Then with the assistance of his brother-in-law, Enoch Willis, built his own log cabin.

Therefore, Barker is credited with being Ovid's first settler, and Allen Lounsbery and John Cross, the second and third settlers, in that order. Cross located on a tract of land in

Section 36, and in September, 1837, he too, brought his family to the new settlement.

William VanSickle was also an early resident of the town, coming in the summer of 1838, and he built a cabin on the south half of Section 31.

Jabez Denison followed in the fall of 1839. During his residence in Ovid, Denison became noted as a successful slayer of bears. It was said that he killed nineteen of them while living here.

Another early settler was William Swarthout, who also migrated from Ovid, New York. He first settled in Victor Township, then moved to Section 36, in Ovid. One reference gives Mr. Swarthout the credit of being Ovid's original settler. He secured a land grant from the Federal Government for Section 12, of Ovid Township. He built his cabin on the river as it passes through our present village, and thus, it is said, the town was conceived. Both the town and the township were named in his honor, taking the name Ovid, from his early home in Ovid, New York.

Some of the other early settlers were Jay V. Retan, Anthony Swarthout, Stephen Pearl, Emory B. Voorhes, B. O. Williams, and W. H. Faxon, to name a few.

B. O. William's plat of the village was recorded May 27, 1858.

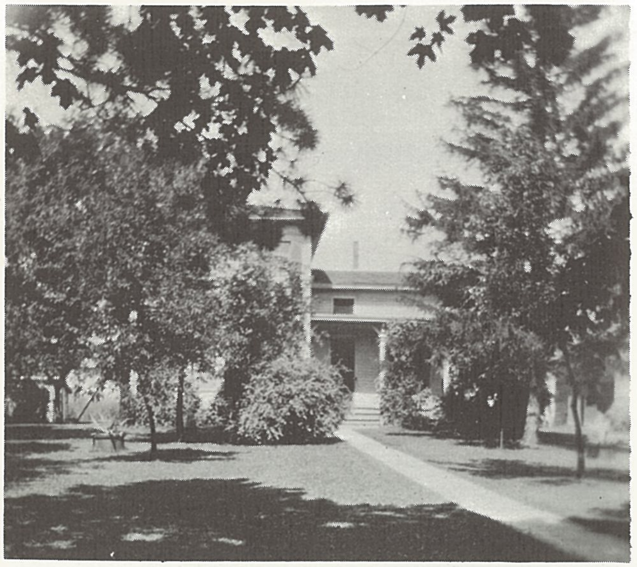
It embraced the southeast quarter and east half of the southwest quarter of Section 12. Additions were made by E. N. Fitch, April 15, 1867; by J. Q. A. Patterson and P. C. Bassett, July 3, 1867; by Hamilton Stone, December 7, 1867; and by W. H. Faxon, May 30, 1872. The latter addition embracing thirty acres in the south end of the west-half of the northeast quarter of Section 12.

Ovid may well have been located one mile east of its present location, at Clark's Corners, if the landowners at that point had not been asking such exorbitant prices for the land.

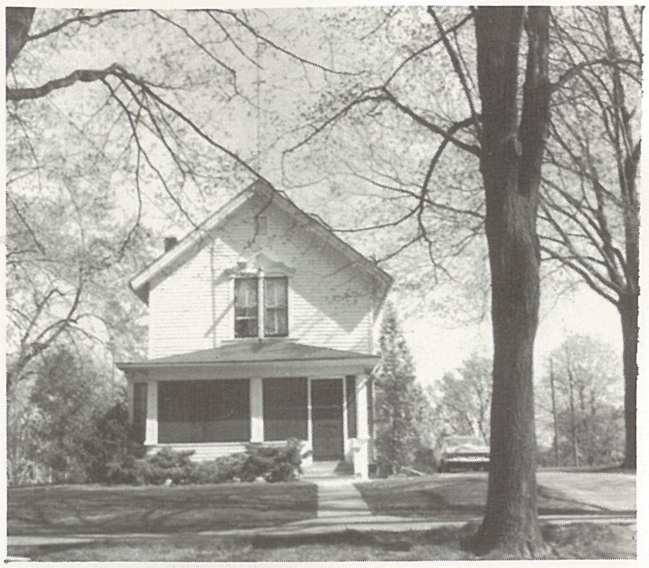
Mr. B. O. Williams had put up a saw-mill in Middlebury Township, on the railway line, one mile east of the present station, and confidently expected to have a railway depot assigned to that location. He platted a town there and began selling lots. Then a Mr. A. H. Frisbie, who operated a cooper shop east of the water works, gave land to the railroad (where the Depot and Freight House stand), of course, the railroad accepted his gift, and decided to construct a station at a point to the west. This drew the people from Clark's Corners to the present site of Ovid.

> The greatest man is he who chooses the right with invincible resolution; who resists the sorest temptations from within and without; who bears the heaviest burdens cheerfully; who is calmest in storms, and most fearless under menace and frowns; and whose reliance on truth, on virtue, and on God, is most unfaltering.
> *William Channing

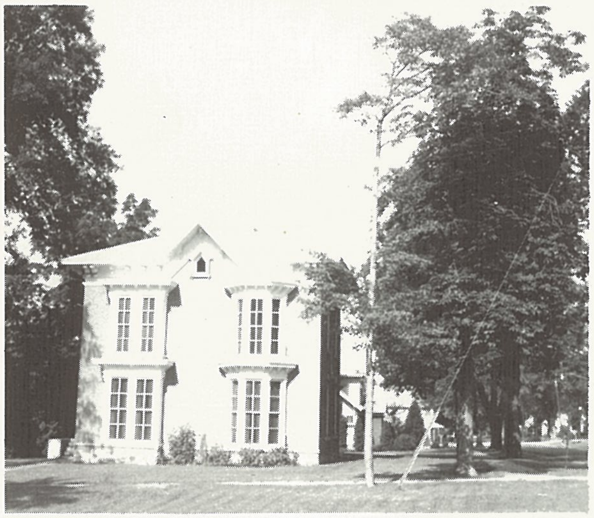
SOME OF THE FIRST HOMES BUILT IN OVID.



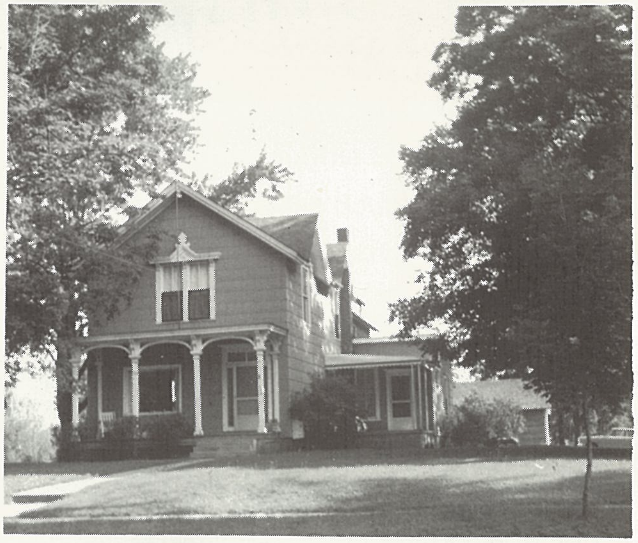
Home of Harry Matthies - Built in 1865.



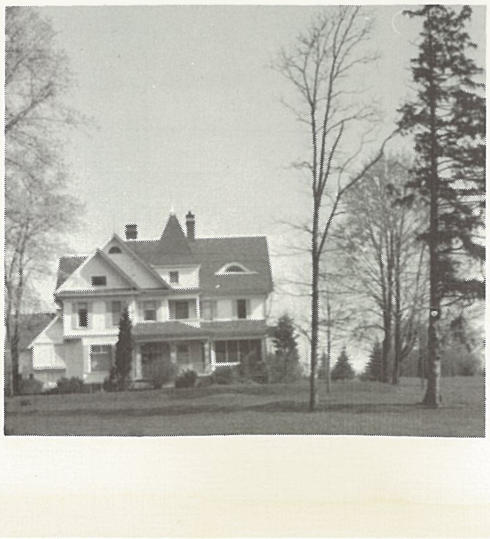
Ozzie Francis' Residence - Built in early 1860's.



One of the first brick homes constructed in Ovid.



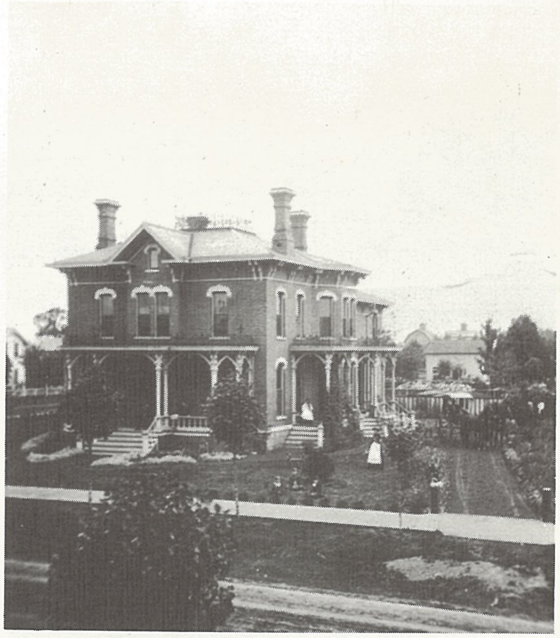
Dale Bancroft's home was also built in 1860's.



The Bett's Home - Built in 1891.

This home was originally owned by W. W. Dennis, (Mrs. Gumaer's father) and occupied the whole west half of the block between Williams St., and Pearl Street. It burned in 1888. The barn was used to construct the Ira Frisbie Home (below) and a duplicate barn was built to house the many horses owned by Mr. Dennis.

The Joe Michutka home was built for Horace Keys on Williams Street, by Mr. Dennis about the same time that the Ira Frisbie house was erected in 1901.



Ira Frisbie Home.

Joe Michutka Residence.

Residence of Dr. B. L. Bates - Constructed in 1908.

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been wrong, which is
but saying in other words, that he is wiser today than he was
yesterday. -Alexander Pope

VILLAGE INCORPORATION

A legislative act, approved March 24, 1869, provided that — "All that tract of country situated in the Township of Ovid, County of Clinton; and distinguished as the Southeast Quarter of Section 12; the East half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 12; the South Three-Eighths of the East half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 12; the Northeast Quarter of Section 13; the East half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 13, in Town 7 North of Range 1, West; is hereby constituted the Village of Ovid."

The first election in the new town was ordered to be held in the Village School-house on the second Monday in April, 1869; and was held accordingly on April 12, 1869. DeWitt C. Harrington and Henry C. Barber were chosen Judges of Election, and L. T. Southworth, Clerk. This meeting adjourned to reconvene at Metropolitan Hall, where the general election was held. There were two hundred twenty-seven votes cast, with Harry Marvin, elected President; D. C. Harrington, Recorder; James C. Darragh, Treasurer; F. L. Davis, Assessor; and Hamilton Stone, Brazil Marvin, A. H. Dunham, and George Fox were the new Trustees, as were Samuel B. Leddick and William Rose.

At the first meeting of the Common Council, Perry Phelps was appointed Marshal; Kingsley Beckwith, Street Commissioner; Henry Cuddeback and F. A. Voorhies, Fire-Wardens; Perry Phelps, Poundmaster; and A. B. Wood, Village Surveyor.

Thus the foundation for Law and Order was established for these pioneering people.

The officers chosen at the spring election of 1967, for the Village were as follows:

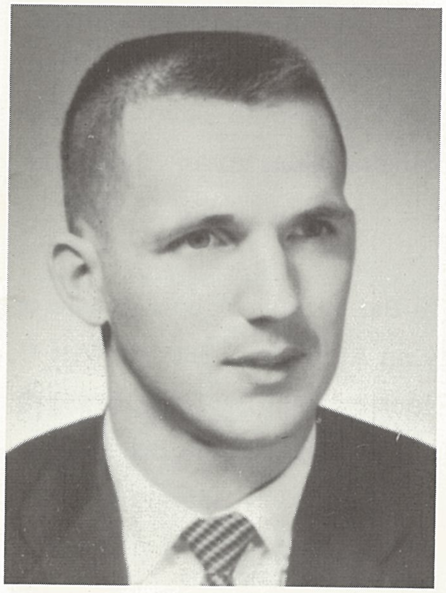
Mom's Cousin

President
Harvey Darling

Clerk - Clara Tubbs

Treasurer - Audrey Bancroft

Trustees



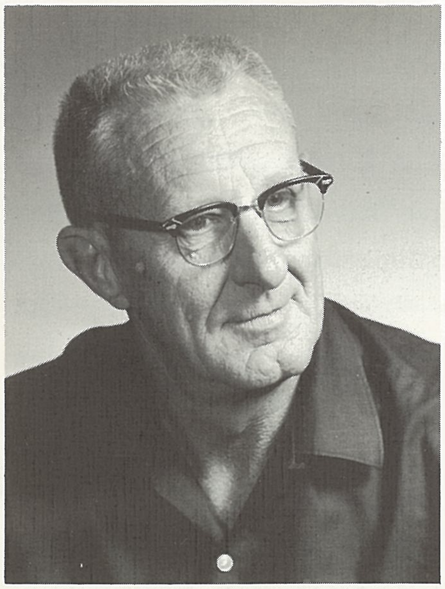
Larry Martin

Laurence Woodworth

Clifford Saxton

Mayor - Exchange Day
1967

TRUSTEES


Marshall Monroe

Robert Shinabery

Joe Michutka

Other Officers Selected were:

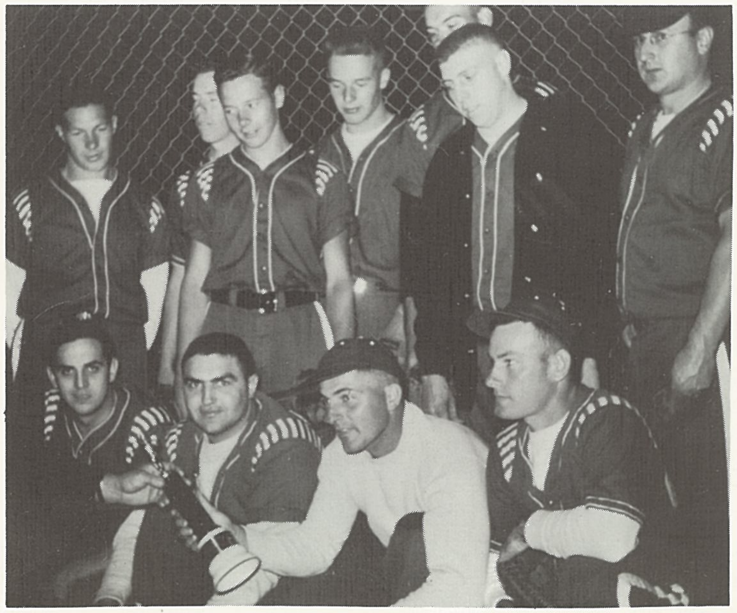
Police Chief-Gaylord Weisenberg

Health Officer-Dr. Louis Terpstra

Deputy-Robert VanGeisen

Village Attorney-Lewis Benson

Assessor-Duane Chamberlain


1954 Champions
Robert Swanson-Coach

Mrs. Evelyn Jenks displays dolls ready for the school carnival.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

The first store in the Village of Ovid was opened by B. I. Udell, (where Moore's Garage now stands). It is said that Mr. Udell began his business with a "handful of goods", and for some strange reason took a hurried and somewhat dramatic departure in the fall of 1857.

In May, 1857, W. C. Bennett built a commodious frame store, stocked liberally with general merchandise. He also added the business of buying wood staves, and other wooden items to ship to an Eastern market. He built up a business of importance in just a short time.

Richard Baylis had put up a saw-mill at about this same time, and contributed to the general prosperity of the community. Early in 1958, John Burkart and Samuel Gilson arrived in town. Burkart began manufacturing chairs and cabinet-ware, and Gilson established a cooperage business. The outlook for the new town had brightened considerably by this time, and great things were expected of it. Thus progress marched on for the new community, and beckoned industry after industry. Among those going into business in the early 1800's were; Park and Kellogg who built a Flour Mill; Fox and Summers who established a lumbering industry; Pearl and Faxon became Dry Goods Merchants; A Mr. House operated a Tannery; A. H. Durkham ran a Foundry; Emory Voorhes dealt in furniture, Musical Instruments, and Undertaking Goods; Anthony Swarthout opened a Dry Goods and Carpet Store; Nelson Jenks manufactured Organs; and Richard Baylis operated a Saw-Mill. In addition to the above, there were Jewelry Stores, Hardware Stores, Tinsmiths, Cabinet-making, and the marketing of Wool, Chairs, Wheat, Wood and Stoves, as well as Barrels and Horse-drawn Carriages.

Thus the settlement came into its own!

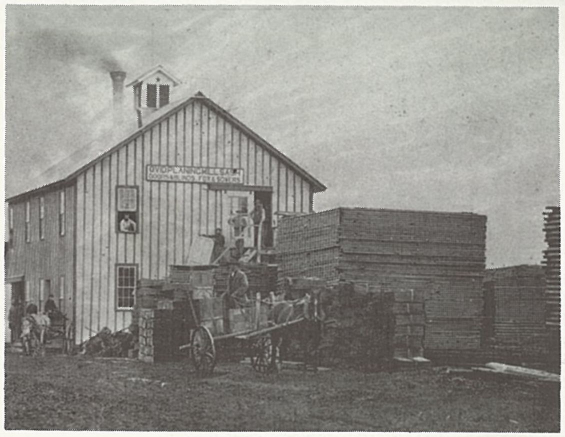
A smile cannot be begged, borrowed, nor stolen; but is of no
earthly good until it is given away. If in your hurry you
meet someone who is too weary to smile, leave one of yours.
-G. K. Chesterton

Cooperage was an especially active industry, employing as many as two hundred fifty men at one time. Probably the greatest industry was the Carriage Manufacturing Industry. Scofield and Danforth were the first owners and operators of this plant.

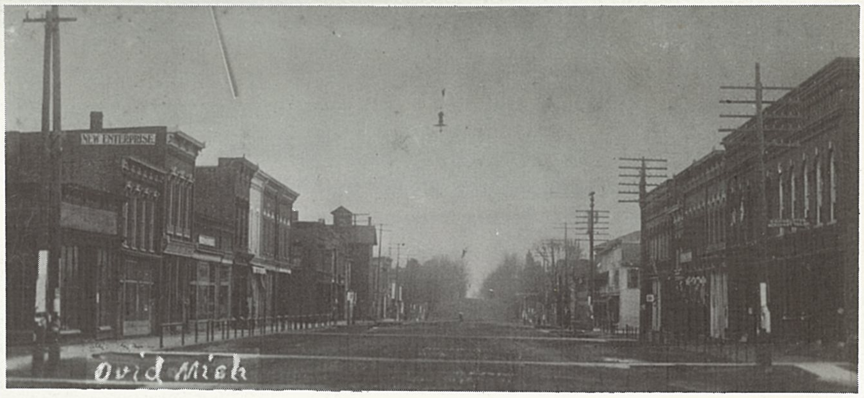
A Village Tavern was built in 1857 by J. S. Bennett. It was called the Park House, because it was constructed on land owned by Josiah B. Park. The name was later changed to the Clinton House. Another well known hotel constructed in Ovid was the Retan House, built in the early 1800's by Jay V. Retan, north of the railroad tracks.

The first brick store was built by Anthony Swarthout in 1869, and leased to C. Beebe & Sons for a Drug Store. (Today, this structure is better known as Jenk's Drug Store.)

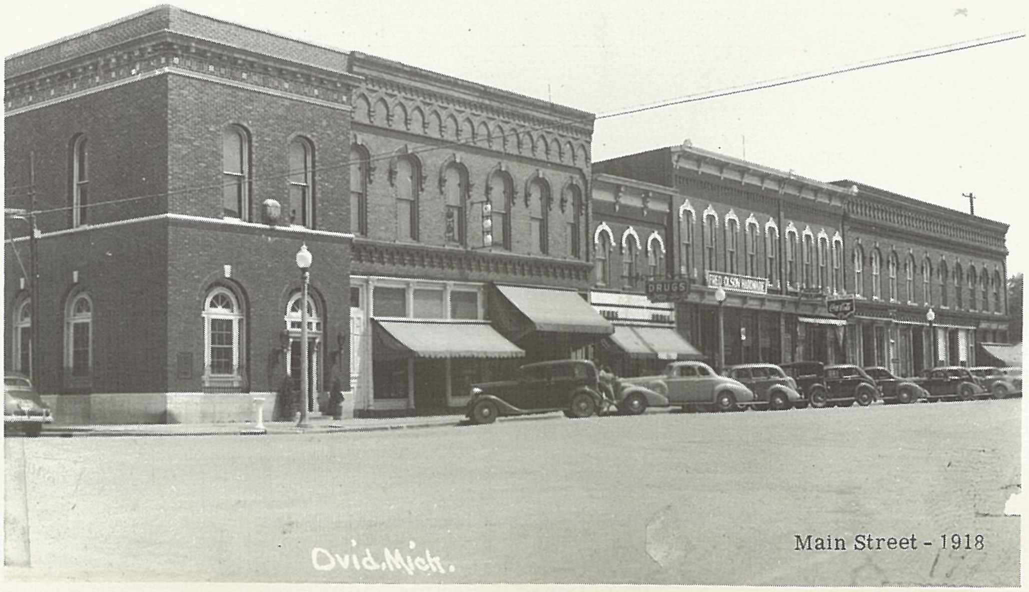
The Phoenix Block was built in 1873, by Charles Farmer, Anthony Swarthout, W. C. Bennett and S. C. King. The Marvin, Potter, and DeCamp Blocks were added later.



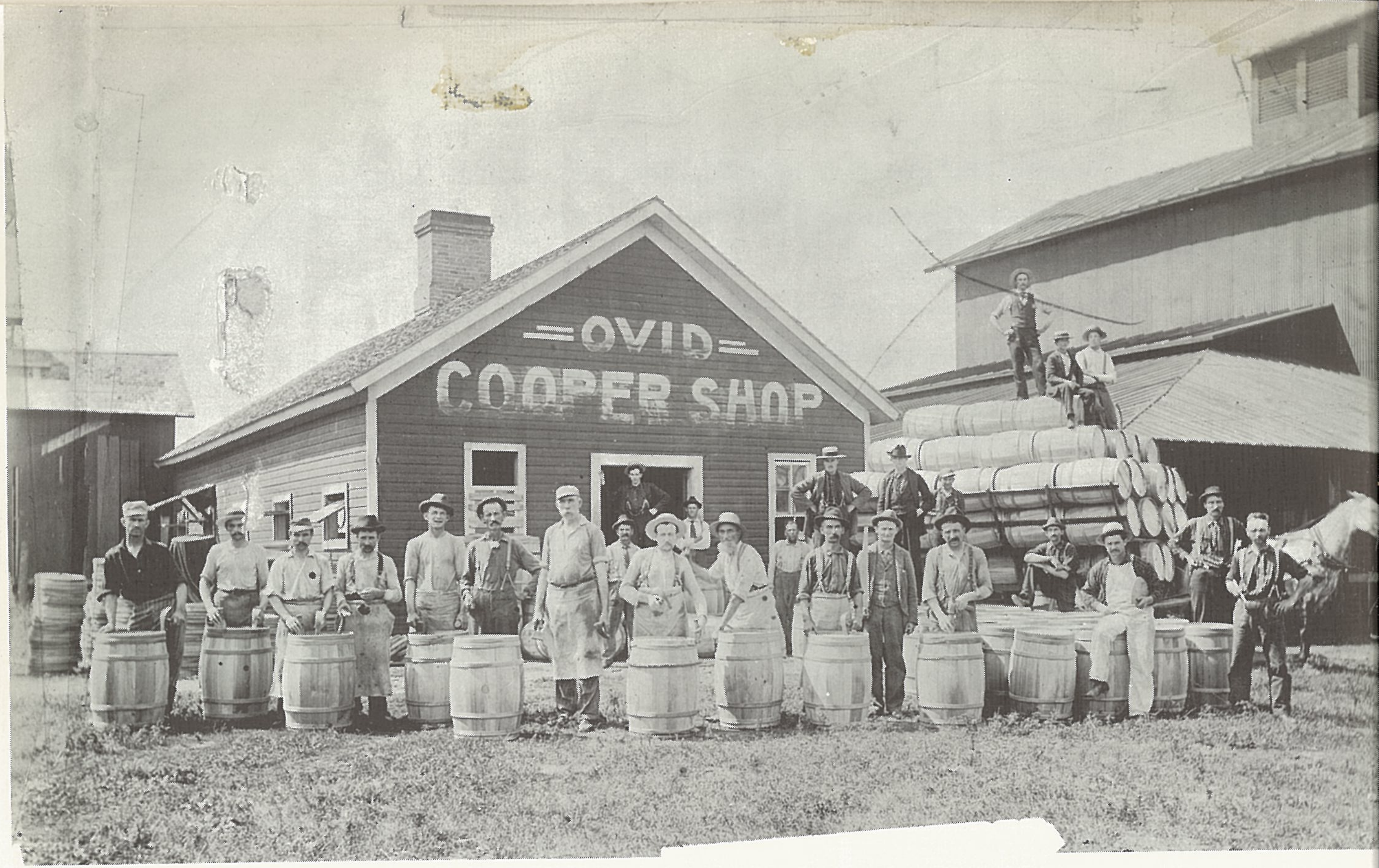
Ovid Door and Sash Company - Located on West Front Street - Owned by Fox and Sowers - year 1880



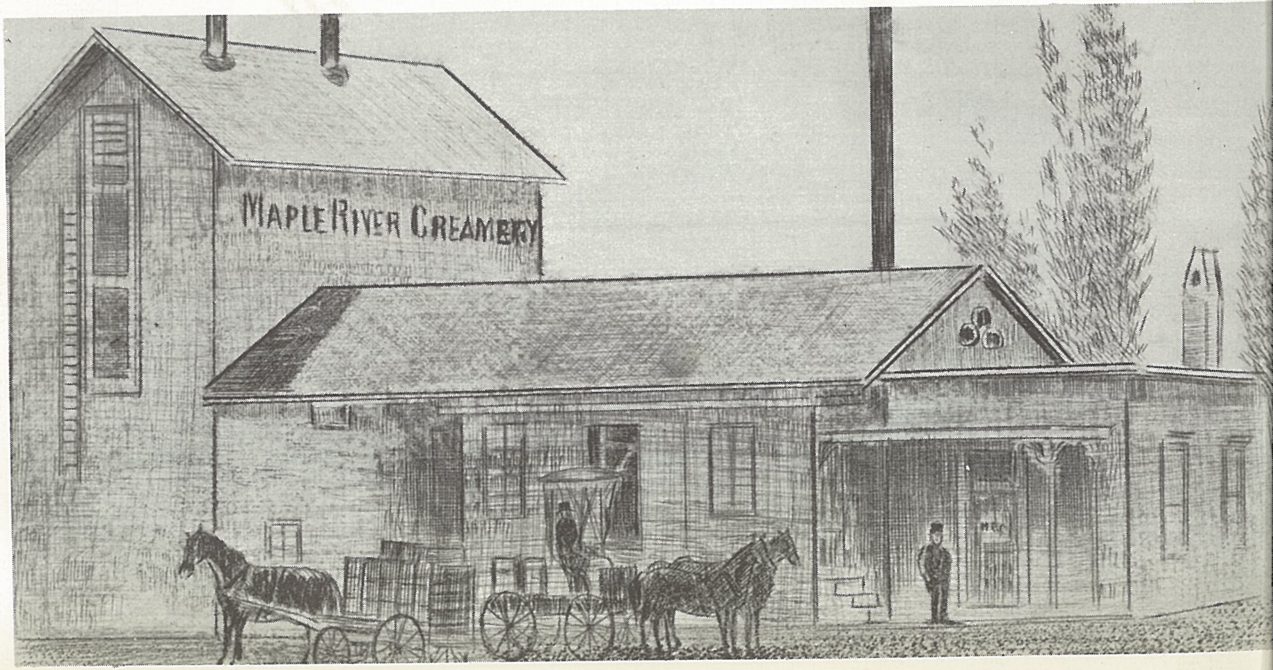
Main Street - 1906

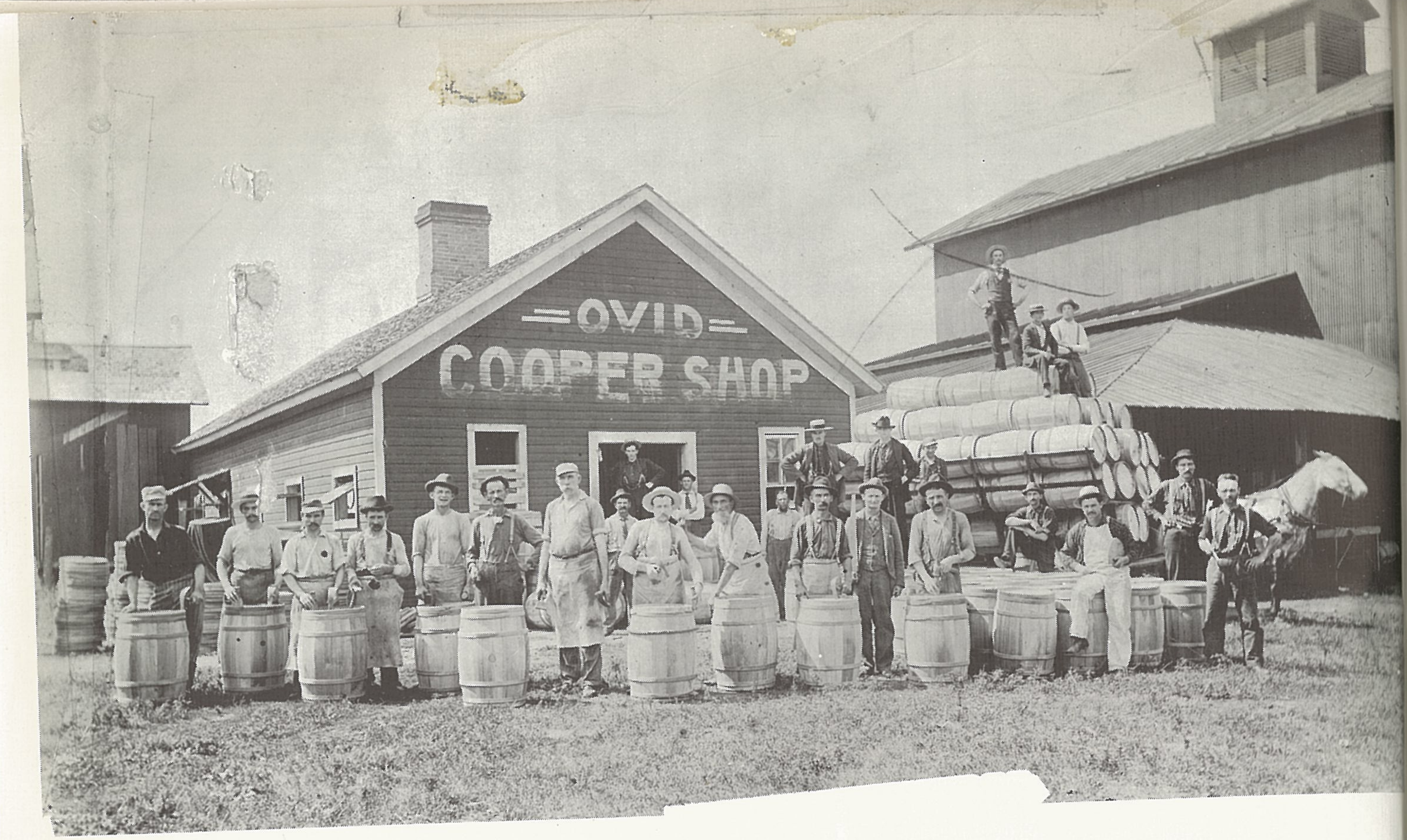


Main Street - 1918



R. A. Robertson & Co., of New York, proprietors of the cooperage business set thei venture in motion at Ovid in the summer of 1866, and appointed John Culver to manage th enterprise. Only six men were employed at first; but the business began to grow steadil and some fifty men were soon employed. Three acres of land were required for the building and yard room. They manufactured from two to three hundred hogsheads and barrels dail These were shipped to Eastern and Foreign Markets. The firm was represented at Ovid, b Thomas Meaghan, who began as a workman in 1866, and managed the firm from 1873, unt the business closed its doors.





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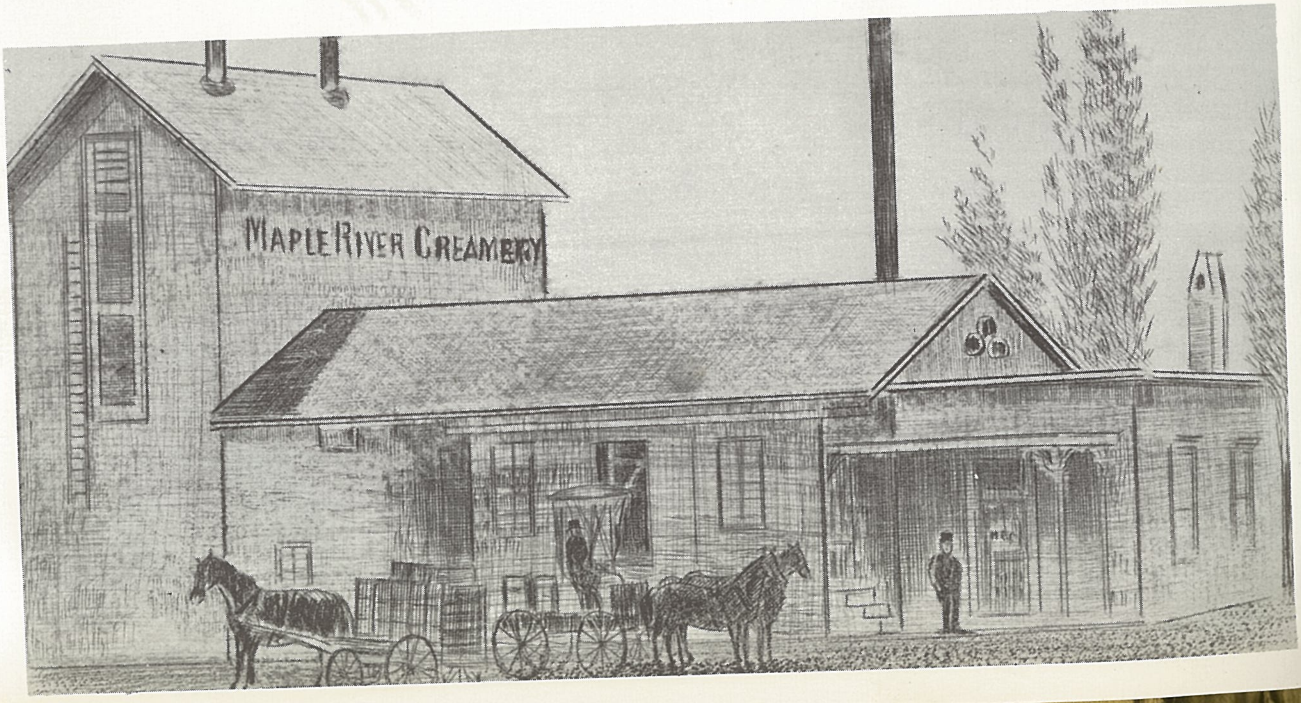
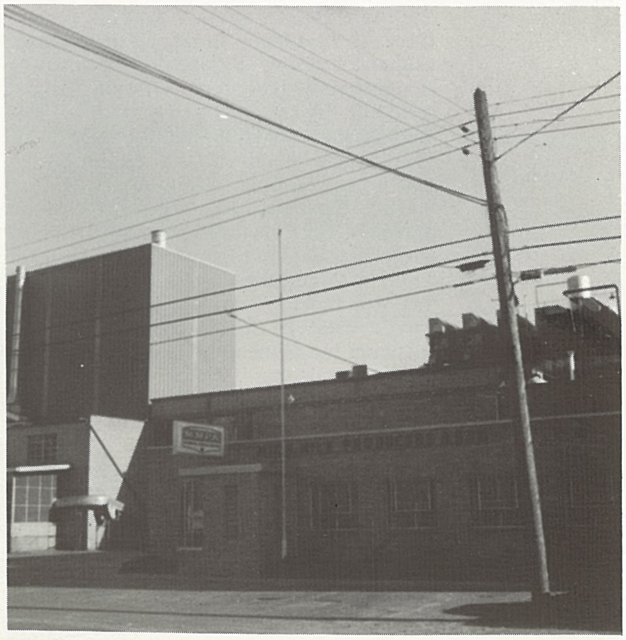


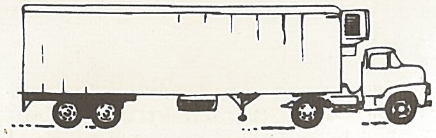
Detroit Creamery, Ovid, Mich.

Ovid's most outstanding industry at this time, is the Dairy Industry, managed by the Michigan Milk Producers Association. This business was originally created by the Detroit Creamery and Ira Wilson Creameries, who bought milk from the rich farm lands surrounding Ovid until 1957, when the Detroit Creamery sold to Michigan Milk and the Ira Wilson Dairies followed in 1961.

The Ovid Plant of the Michigan Milk Producers Association is the largest plant in the State of Michigan used exclusively for processing milk and cream into dairy products. It can produce up to 3300 pounds of butter an hour, (due to a new continuous churn installed recently), up to 100,000 pounds of Powered Milk per day, up to 35,000 pounds of Cottage Cheese and 15,000 pounds of Cultured Sour Cream each day. All milk that goes into the plant for processing is first separated into skim milk and cream. Cottage Cheese and Cultured Sour Cream is made and packaged at Ovid for about forty different companies. Much of this is in "private label" containers. They have four silo tanks of 40,000 gallon capacity each, which are used for storage, and an additional product storage tank of 150,000 gallons. The average employment is about 140 people, and in peak seasons it reaches about 160. Between 40 and 50 bulk milk tankers unload at Ovid each day.



Michigan Milk Producers Office



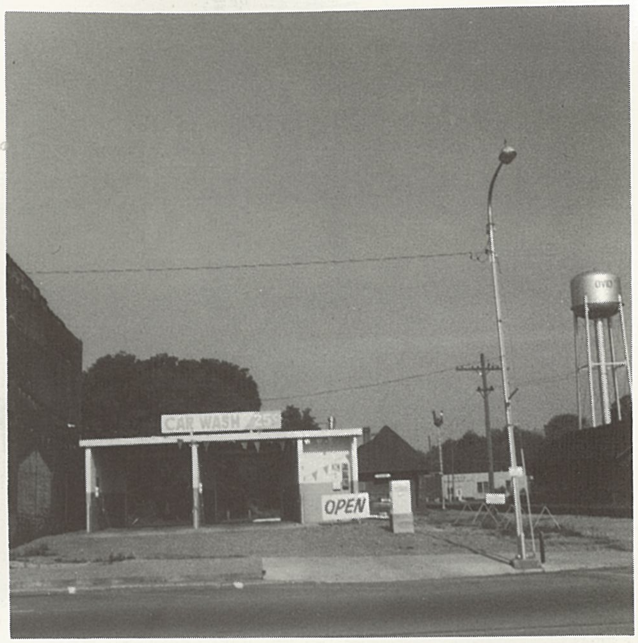
When one is on Main Street today-(1967), he finds the following businesses in operation:

Nemanis Electric Company - Operated by Paul Nemanis
Moore and Son Chevrolet Garage - "   " Charles Moore
Ovid Register Union - Robert Martin (The first newspaper was printed in 1866, and while the name has been changed there has been a continous publication since that date, until July, 1967, when he closed operations.)
Farmer's Elevator - Earl Brown
Parker's Furniture - Clyde Parker
Clock's Cleaners - Charles Clock
Ken's Market - Kenneth Hartsuff
Tavern - Harold Boyer
Bancroft's Clothing - Dale Bancroft
Ovid Service Agency - John & Rosemary Valko, Gilbert Bovan, and Harold Beardslee
Jenk's Drug Store - Richard Jenks
Ovid Hardware - Archie Miller & Herbert Harrison
Implements, Hardware, Laundramat, and Car Wash - Rupert Temple
Ginther's Foodland - Ronald Ginther
Liberty Food Store - J. N. Cross
IGA Foodliner - John & George Maron
Gamble Store - Willard Zwick
Variety Store - L. E. Bakke
The C. and M. Shop - Pauline Maurer
Restaurants -
  B & D Snack Bar - Bethel Stilwel
  Dee's Restaurant - Dena Nortyhouse
  Jack's Grill - Jack Seibert
Central National Bank of St. Johns
Darling's - Harvey & Oliver Darling
Ovid Texaco Service - Dale Doyen
Ovid Radio & Television Service - Vincent Holzman

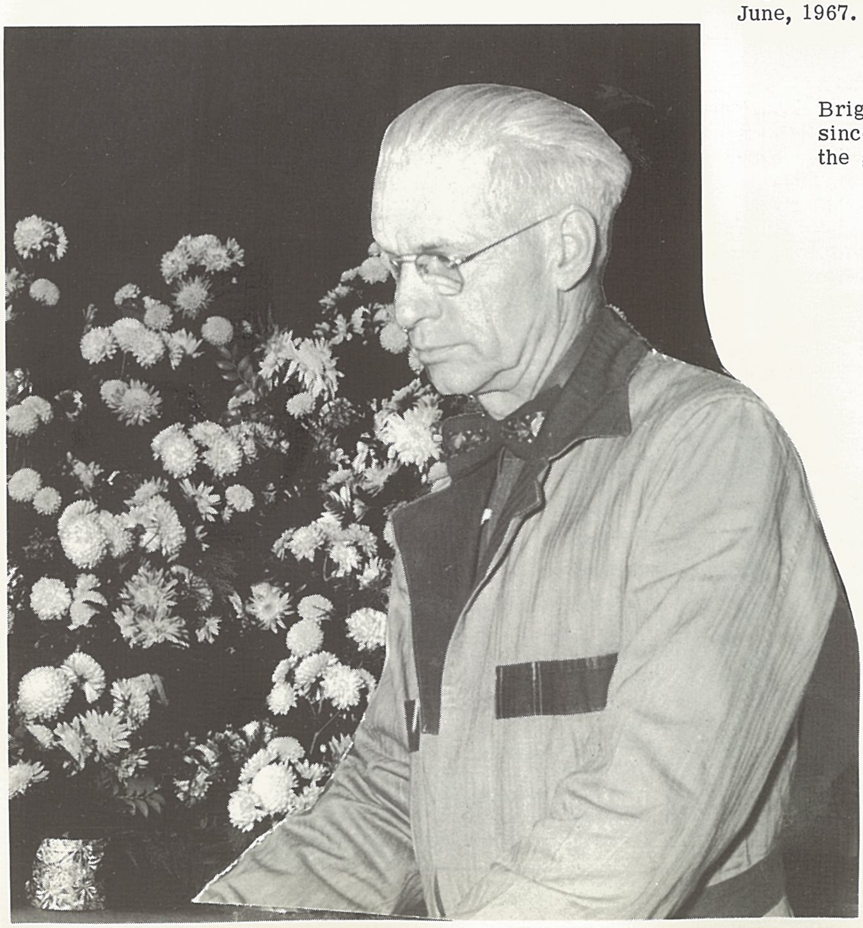
There are many other business activities not on Main Street:

Brigg's Floral and Gift Shop - James Briggs
Clinton Machine Company
Edith's Beauty Shop - Edith Mole
Marlene's Beauty Shop - Marlene Sipkovsky
LindaLou's Beauty Salon - Linda Behrens
Rummell's Beauty & Barber Shop - Lloyd & Adah Rummell
Amelia's Beauty Salon - Amelia Tejkl
General Telephone Comapny of Michigan - Richard Hood
Gumaer Lumber & Coal Co. - Robert Gumaer
Houghton Funeral Home - David Houghton & John Workman
Ovid Oil Co. Inc. - Clare Crawford, President; James Whittemore, Sec. & Treas.
Jim's Super Service - James Ball
Ovid Roller Mills - Richard DePond
Ray's Gulf Station - Raymond Page
Smith's Sanitation Service - Clifford Smith
Standard Oil Service - Bruce Welton
Sheldon's Packing House - Dale Sheldon
Tyler's Furniture - Ross Tyler
Tri-Am Bowl - John & Anthony Sinicropi
Tom's Western Store - Tom Tyler
Wayside Inn (formerly Judy's Diner) - Judy Conrad
Ovid Convalescent Manor - Hazel Dietz
Lannen-Beach Animal Hospital - Drs. Richard Lannen & Robert Beach
Mead's Sales & Service - Harold Mead
Pickering Decorating Service - Wm. Pickering
Polhamus Sand & Gravel Co. - Henry Polhamus
Dick's Used Cars - Richard Hallead
Stanton's Apple Orchard - John Stanton
Foersch's Nursery - Berl Foersch
Chamberlain's Nursery - Duane Chamberlain
Love's Upholstery Shop - Kenneth Love
Cabinet Work - Norval Thorntan
Builder of New Homes - LeRoy Cannon
Building and Remodeling - Fred Dennis
Livestock Trucking - Elwin Love

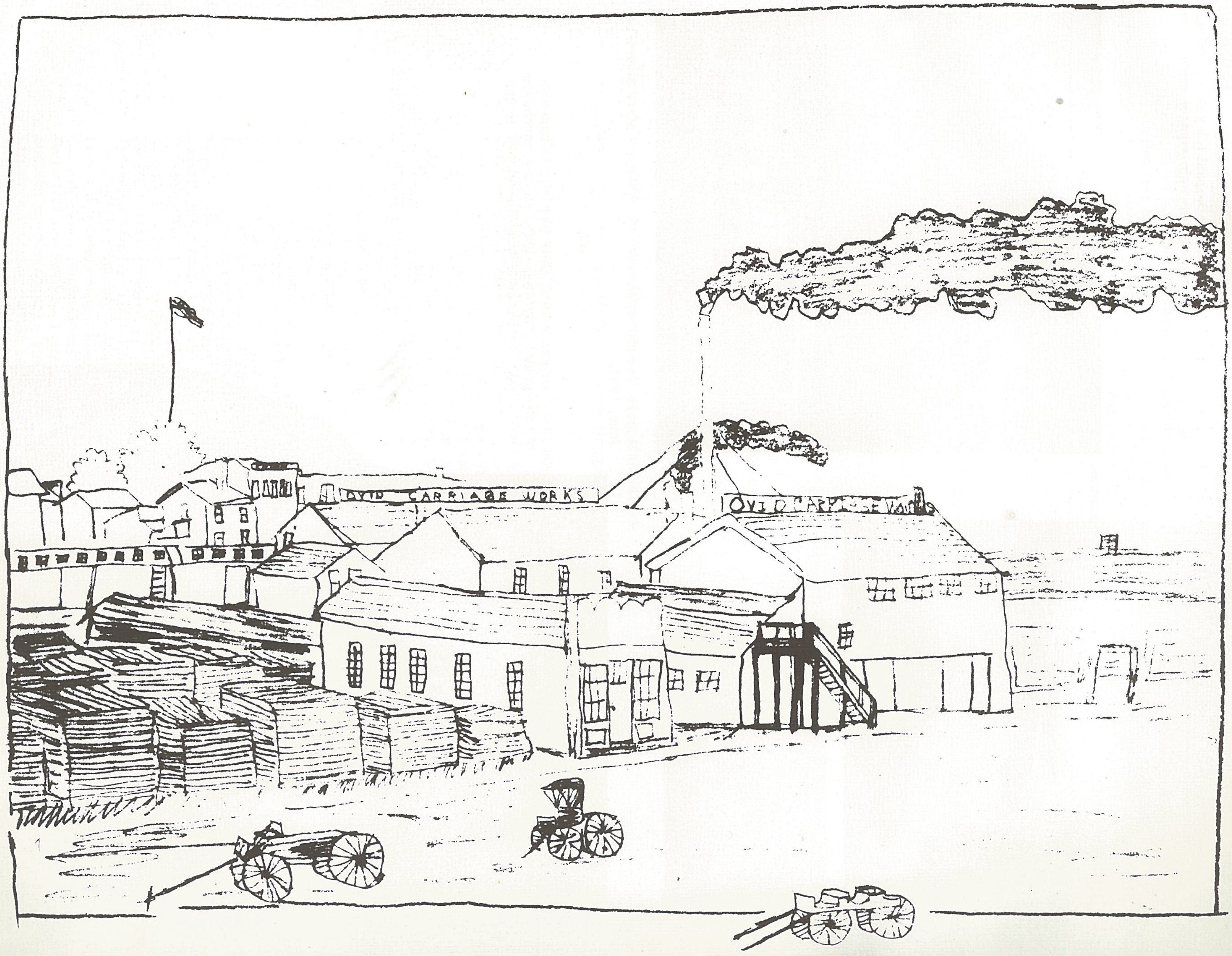
One of the most recent businesses to be established in this area is the Ovid Air Service, owned and operated by Max Miller. Max has been flying every season for the past ten years seeding, fertilizing, and spraying chemicals to help control insect and weed problems that plague the farmer.



Rupert Temple opened a Car-Wash on Main Street in June, 1967.

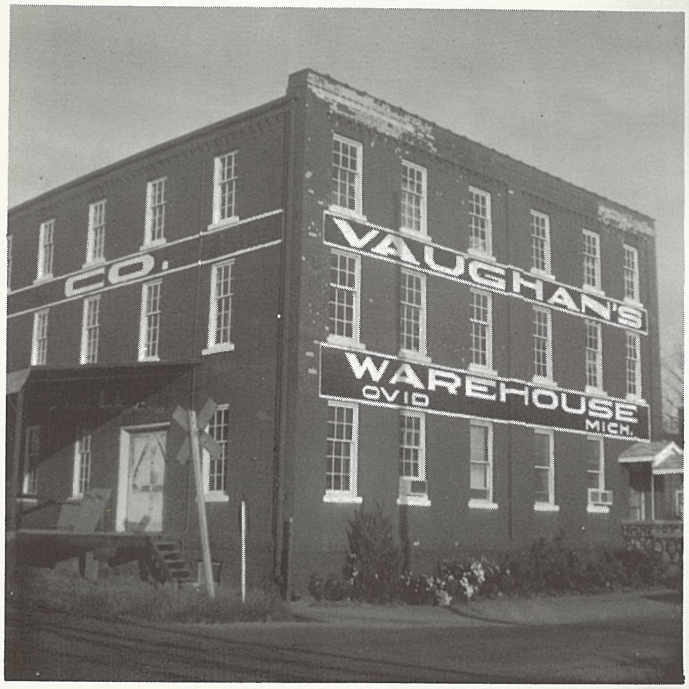


Briggs Floral Shop has been in business since July 1st, 1935. Having purchased the greenhouses from the James Hoags.


OVID CARRIAGE WORKS
OVID CARRIAGE WORKS

OVID CARRIAGE WORKS

The Ovid Carriage Works began in Ovid on a limited scale during the year 1877. Then the business began to grow and in a period of nine months, it increased to three times its former proportions in every department, and soon developed into a very active and lucrative business. Many cutters were manufactured, however, buggies were the speciality, and their superior quality was universally conceded. Sixty men were employed in the various departments, including planing, moulding, re-sawing, matching, etc. Each piece was submitted to personal inspection before approval. By 1880, the business had reached a volume of $140,000, and was regarded as the most complete and extensive in the state in that particular branch of industry.



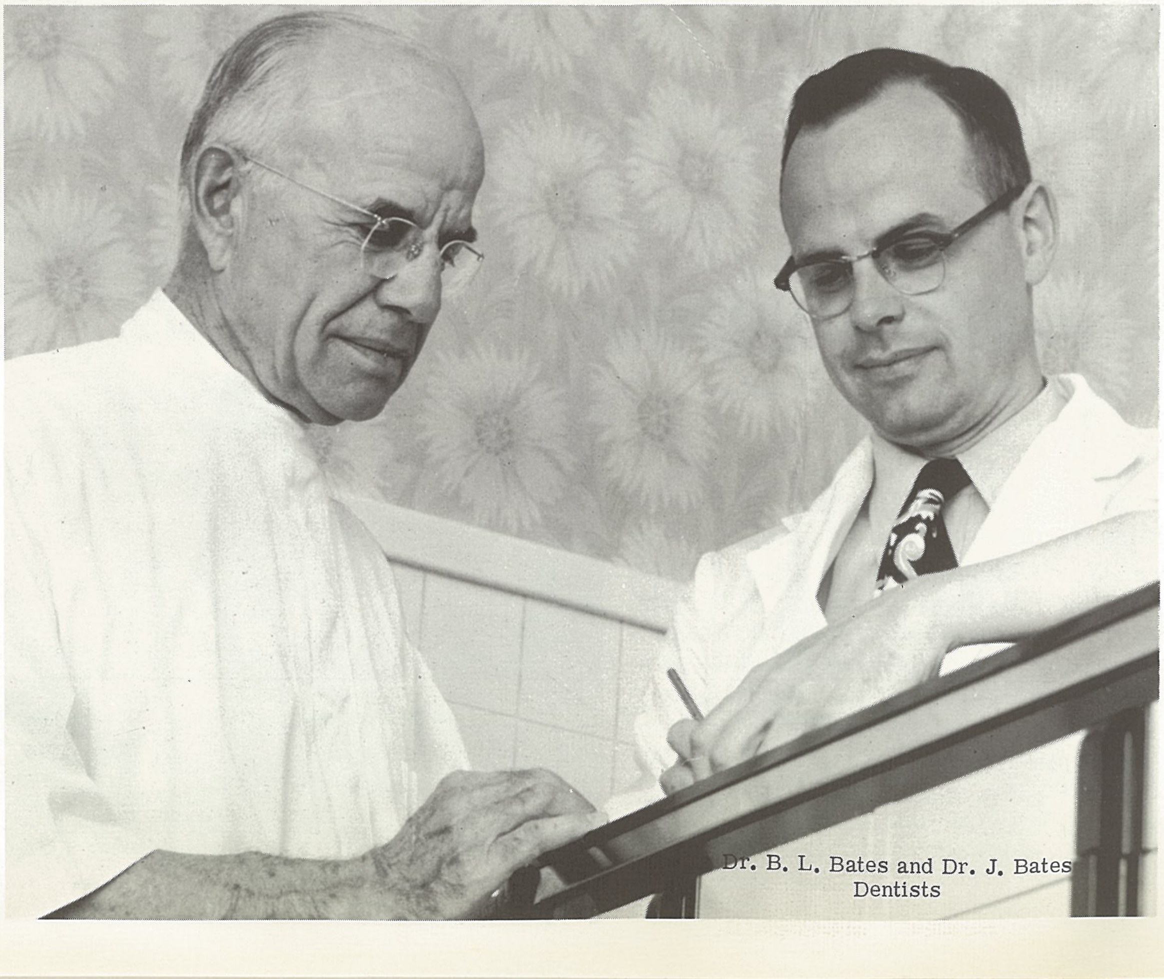
Ovid Apartments

Side-Walk Sales

Today, the old Carriage Factory Building is occupied by the Vaughn Seed Company. Vaughns originally specialized in raising Gladioli; selling both the blossoms and the bulbs. Now, however, they feature Roses, Garden and Grass Seeds, as well as Garden Fertilizers. Mr. Harry Oven, was Plant Manager for many years, starting in 1911, but the business is now in the capable hands of his son, John.

Dr. Louis Terpstra

Dr. W. B. Fillinger



Dr. B. L. Bates and Dr. J. Bates
Dentists

Dr. Bruce Elliott

Mrs. Adrian Huss
Dental Lab. Technician

PHYSICIANS

Ovid was well supplied with physicians in the early days. Some twenty doctors pursued the practice of their profession between 1859 and 1880. Seven of them were practicing at the same time. Now we feel very fortunate to have the services of just one - Dr. Louis Terpstra, being our only physician.

The pioneer doctor was E. V. Chase, who opened his office in 1857, and remained until 1860, when he moved to Elsie, Michigan. Dr. S. C. King followed Dr. Chase, and they in turn were followed by a long list of others of their profession. Some of the more familiar names to Ovid people would be Dr. O. B. Campbell and Dr. J. F. Abbott. Dr. Abbott opened his practice in 1875, and Dr. Campbell in 1878. These two were followed by Dr. James McGuillicuddy and Dr. Osterheld. In more recent years, Dr. W. B. Fillinger and Dr. Bruce Elliott tended to the needs of Ovid people. Dr. Fillinger retired after some forty years service and Dr. Elliott passed away in 1966, after serving the people of this community for thirty-two years.

We are fortunate, also, in having a dentist practicing in Ovid. Upon graduation from the University of Michigan Dental School, Dr. Jackson Bates elected to join his father, Dr. B. L. Bates, in their suite of offices in the Bates building. They practiced together from 1946 to 1957, when Dr. B. L. Bates retired. It is interesting to note that both father and son graduated from the same Dental School. Dr. B. L. Bates received his diploma in 1905 and Dr. Jack in 1941. Dr. Jackson Bates served in the United States Navy five years before joining his father.

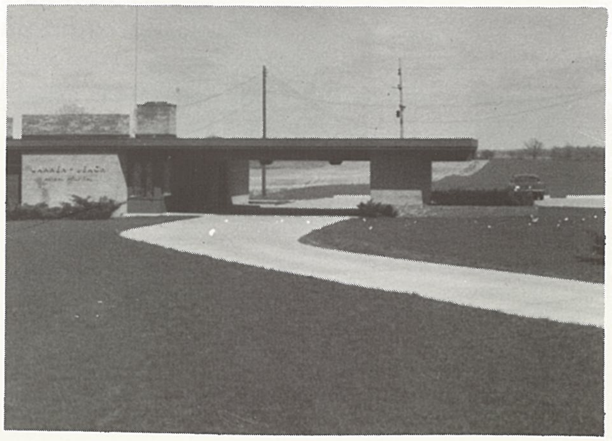
Experience is good medicine, but it is never taken until the sickness is over. -The Crossett (Ark.)

OVID
CONVALESCENT
MANOR

First Convalescent Home
Operated by Hazel Dietz.

Mrs. Hazel Dietz, Mgr.
Convalescent Manor.

Home of Mrs. Birdsall. Built by O. B.
Campbell in 1900's as a Hospital.



Lannen-Beach Animal Hospital.
Hollister Road

OVID FIRE DEPARTMENT

A "bucket brigade" did fire duty for Ovid until 1875, when a Hook-and-Ladder Company was added to the fire-fighting force. This company was christened "Washington, No. I," and started with twenty-two members. S. W. Rose was chosen Foreman; William Stevenson, First-Assistant; and Henry McCarty, Second-Assistant. E. P. Corbisher was elected Chief Engineer of the department, and remained in that office until 1880, when he was succeeded by William Stevenson. A servicable Hook-and-Ladder Truck was built in the village in 1875.

Today, the fire department is made up of volunteer firemen, with Cecil Madden acting as Fire-Chief. A Pick-up Truck and a Tank Truck, owned jointly by Ovid and Middlebury Townships, are housed at the village hall, but manned by the fourteen men making up the fire-fighting force. Ovid Village, has two trucks, a 1924 Pumper and a newer Hook-and-Ladder Truck. These are all used to very good advantage by the capable Fire Department when the occasion demands.

The following is a copy of an Ordinance adopted in 1882, by the Village Council regulating the affairs of the Fire Department, and is taken from the records kept at the Council Rooms.

Ordinance II.

Sec.I. The Common Council of the Village of Ovid, do ordain that a Fire Company shall be established in the Village of Ovid, and that said Common Council may appoint, from among the inhabitants of said Village, such number of men willing to accept, to be employed as firemen. Such Comapny shall make their own by-laws and rules for the organization and government of the company, subject to the approval of the Common Council; and may enforce and collect such fines for non-attendance or neglect of duty of any of its members as may be provided by the by-laws and rules of the company; and such company shall perform all the duties required of them as provided by the Charter of said Village of Ovid.

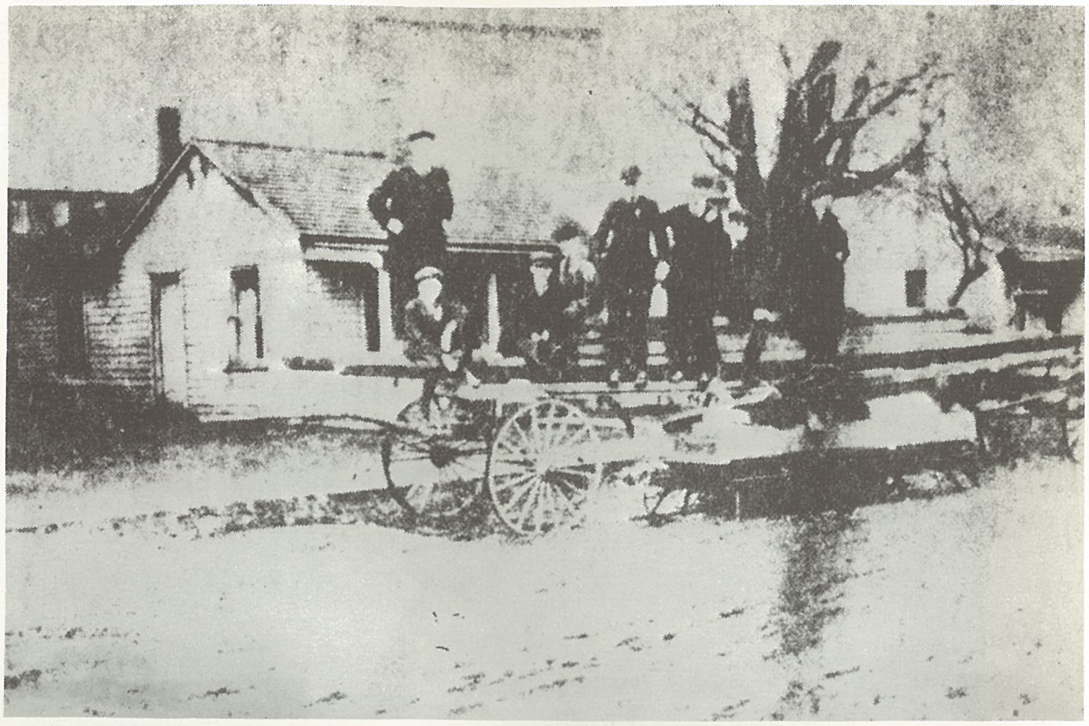
Sec.2. The Marshal or any member of the Common Council may require the assistance of any or all by-standers in extinguishing any fire in said village; and in the removal, preservation and protection of any property endangered thereby, and in case any bystander shall wilfully neglect to comply with such requirement, he shall be punished by a fine not exceeding ten dollars, or by imprisonment in the County jail not exceeding ten days.

Sec.3. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force on and after the 4th day of December, A.D. 1882.

A. Atherton, Recorder.

The 16th. of October, 1856, was known as the "dark day", because of forest fires in the surrounding areas. The atmosphere was filled with smoke for several days, and the pioneers were very apprehensive and fearful. It was so dark that objects could not be distinguished at a distance of two rods, and lights were necessary indoors. Fish were killed in the streams, and some of the people were so sure that the end of the world was at hand, that they buried their valuables and made peace with their world.

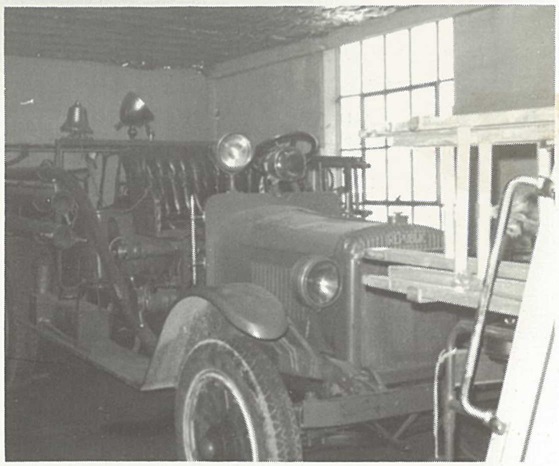
Cecil Madden, Fire-Chief and Caretaker of the Gumaer Memorial Park.



Horse-Drawn Hook-and-Ladder Fire Engine used in Ovid, in 1875.

OVID
FIRE DEPT.

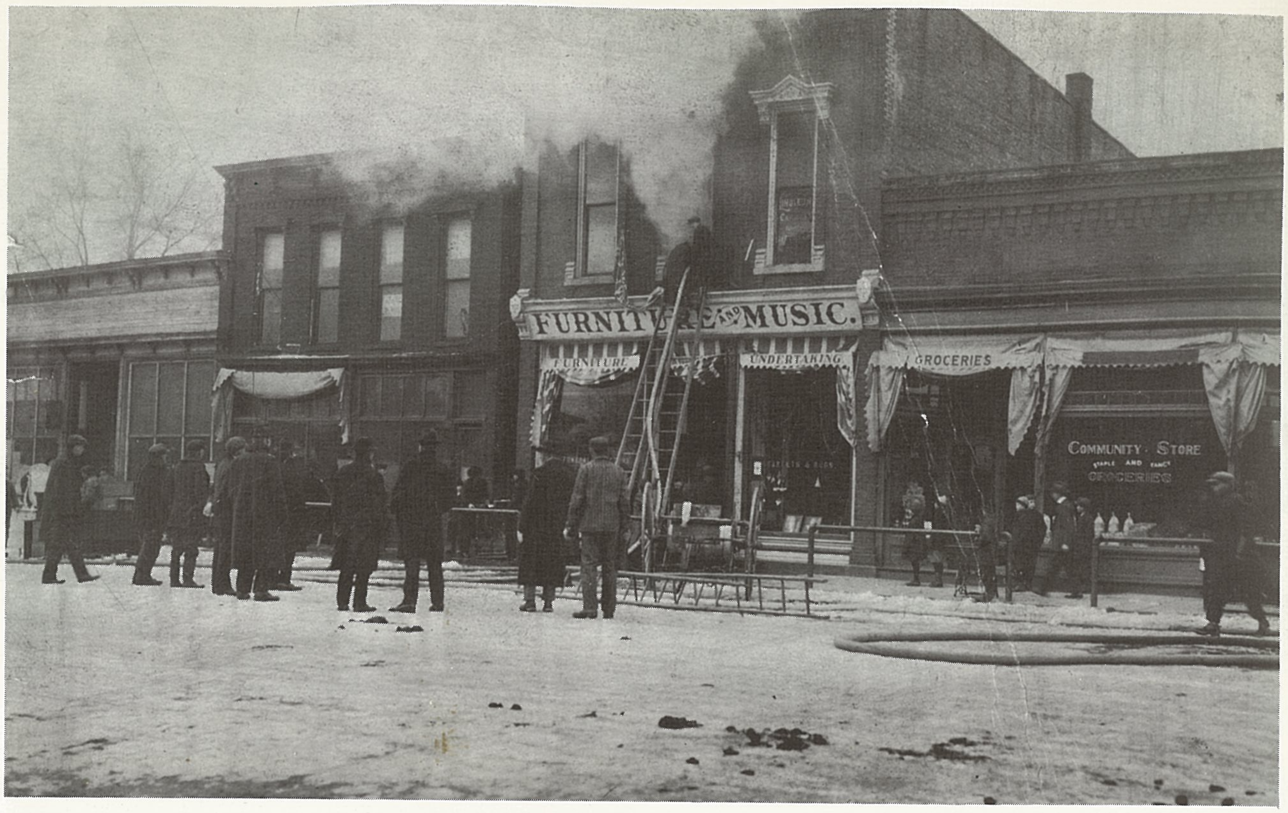
Ovid Firemen fight a grass fire.



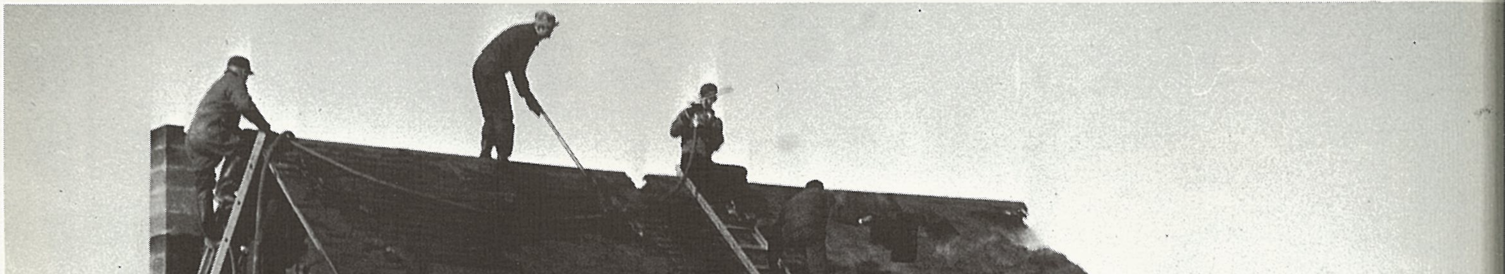
Old Pumper-Truck, stored at Fire Station, but did active duty at one time.

OVID
MIDDLEBURY
TWP.

Cecil Madden and Irwin Cannon standing by one of the fire-engines.


FURNITURE AND MUSIC.
FURNITURE
UNDERTAKING
GROCERIES
COMMUNITY STORE
STAPLE AND FANCY
GROCERIES

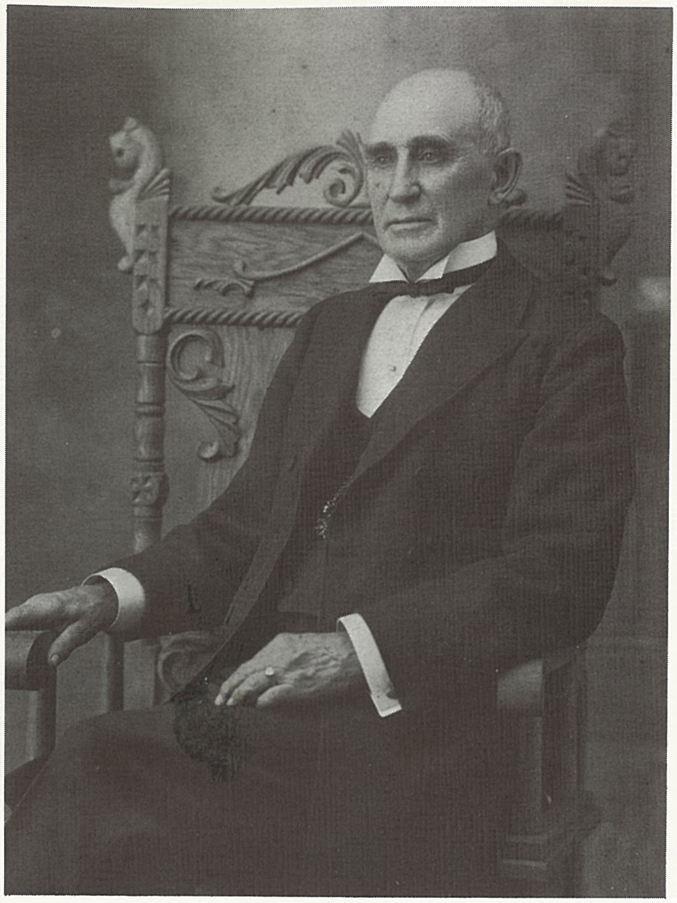
Fighting a fire on Main Street in late 1800's.



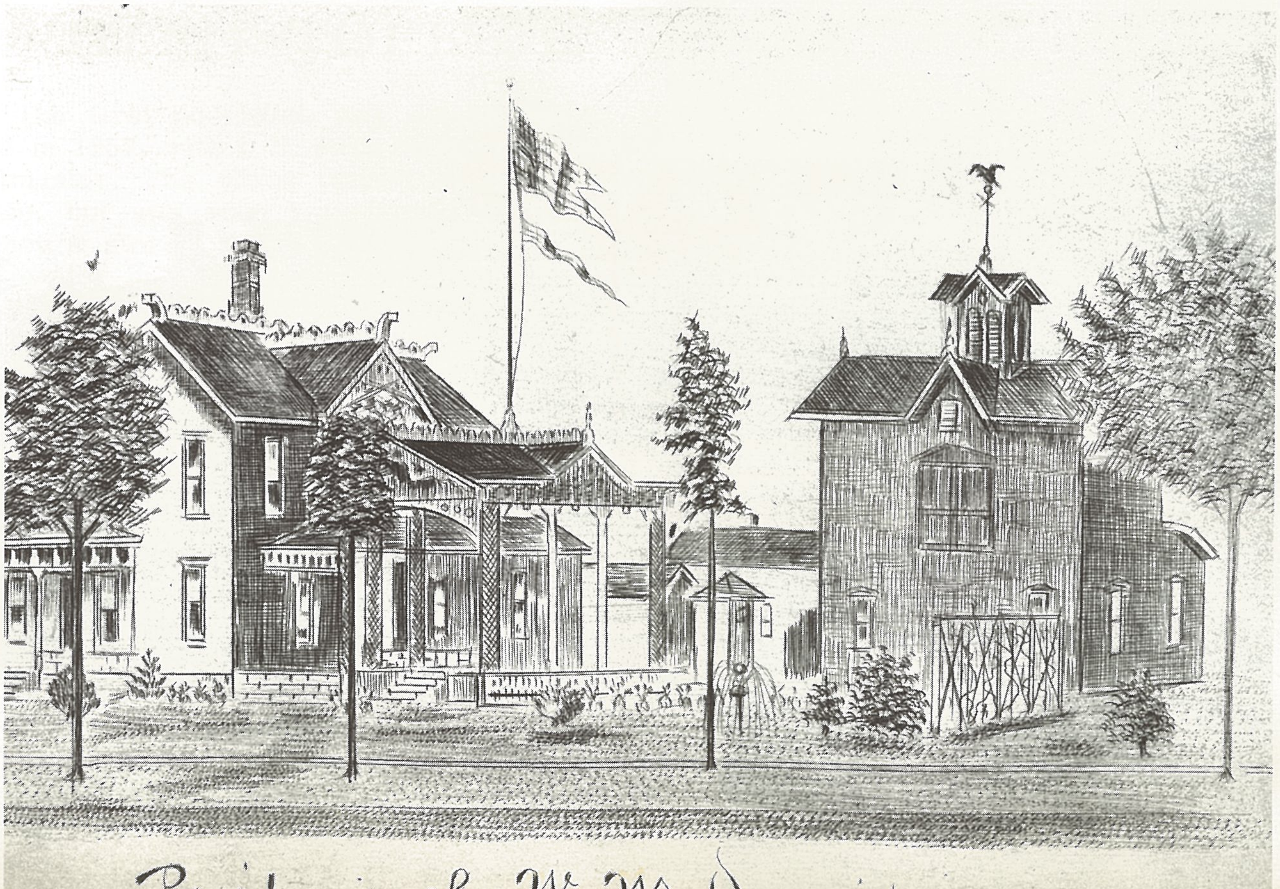
Ovid Fireman hard at work at a fire in 1966.

OVID'S LAWYERS

The history of the legal profession in Ovid may be told in a few short sentences. Richard Baylis, who built the first sawmill in Ovid in 1856, began to practice law in 1858. He joined E. N. Finch in the legal business. However, their practice must have been exceedingly limited. B. H. Scovill and John Blarken came next. Then in 1870, W. W. Dennis began a village practice which flourished for a time. Then came S. W. Baker, William Castle and A. D. Griswold. Mr. Griswold, who at one time, was United States District Attorney at Grand Rapids, became Mr. Dennis' law partner, and with Willis Castle established a law firm that represented the legal profession in Ovid for several years. Byron Soule may be remembered by some people when he had an office back of the old post office. Alba Wert, of St. Johns, also practiced in Ovid for a short time.

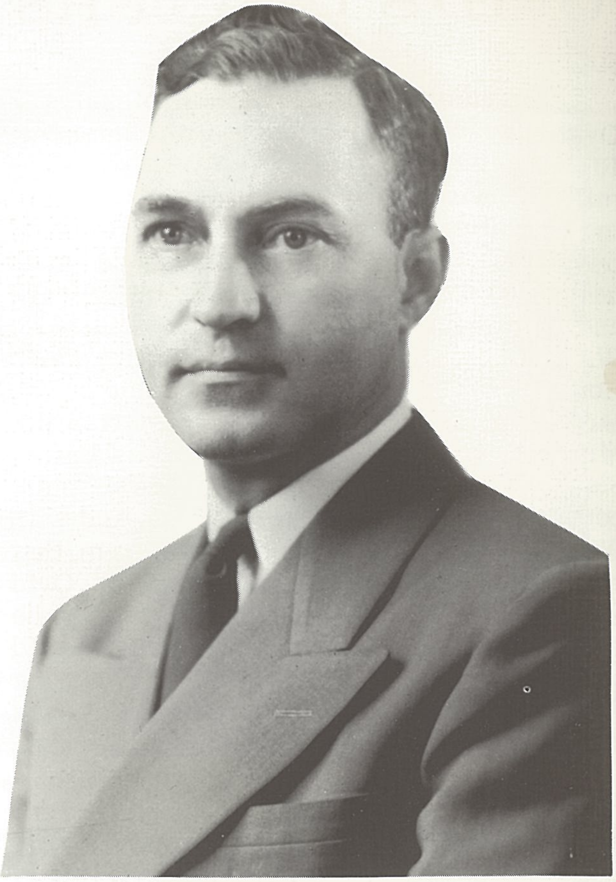


W. W. Dennis



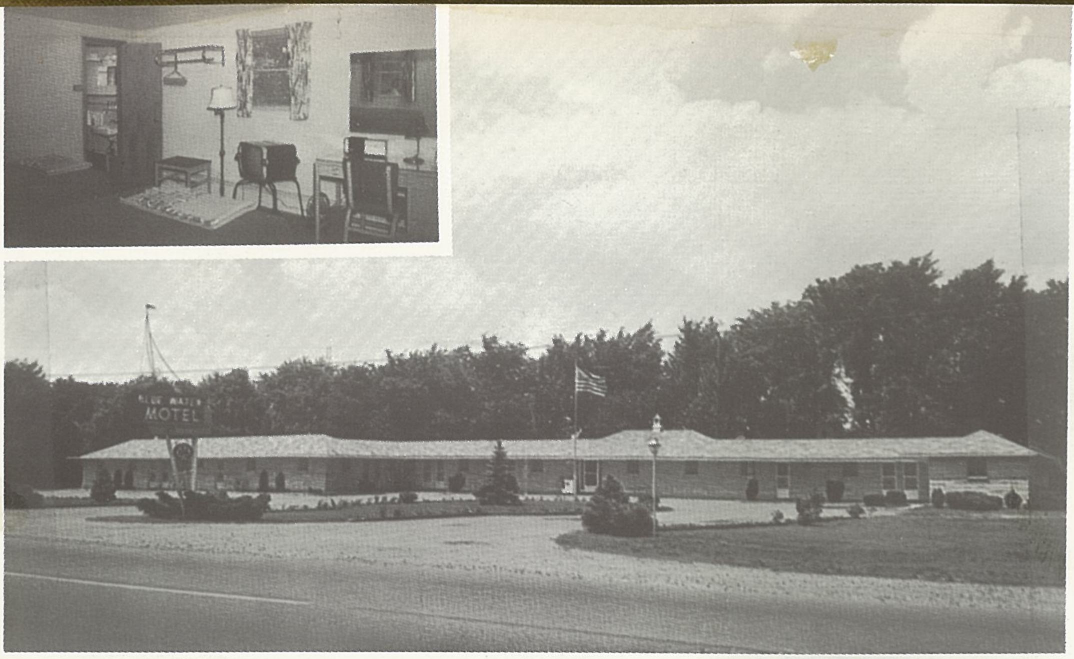
Residence of W W Dennis

John Workman
(Mortician)



David Houghton
(Mortician)

Houghton Funeral Home



Blue Water Motel
Ovid, Michigan

OVID POSTOFFICE

The first postoffice was established at Ovid in 1857, with J. B. Park being appointed postmaster. The office opened at the Park House, but was soon transferred to W. C. Bennett's store. W. H. Faxon was appointed postmaster in 1860, but resigned in favor of Capt. A. B. Wood in 1866. L. T. Southworth was next, and was followed by L. C. Mead in 1868. Ovid has had many postmasters since that time; Howard Vaughn, LeRoy Gumaer, and Ralph Baker, being some of the more recent ones. Mrs. Henry Besko, holds that office at the present time.

The location of the postoffice has been changed many times over the years, but is presently on N. Main Street, in a new building.

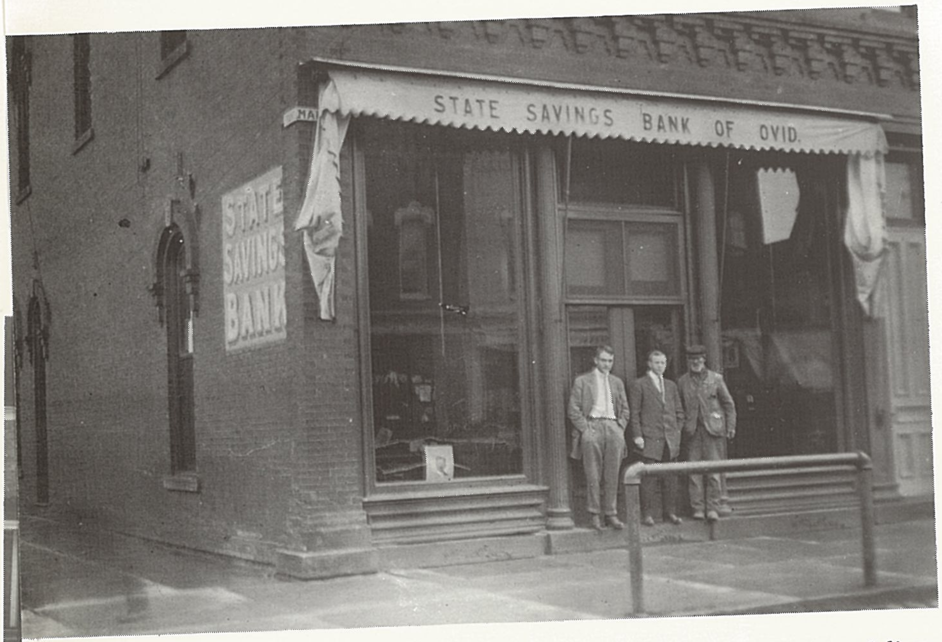
OVID PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Acme Society was responsible for the construction and maintenance of the Ovid Public Library. They still sponsor it with assistance from Middlebury Twp. and the Village Council in financial aid.

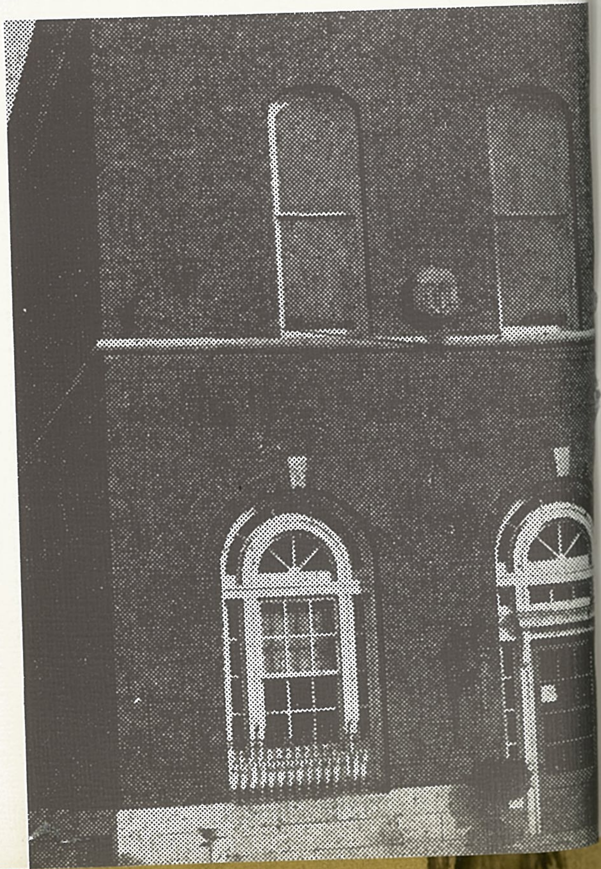
Tri-Ami Bowling
John & Anthony Sinicropi
Proprietors

BANKING

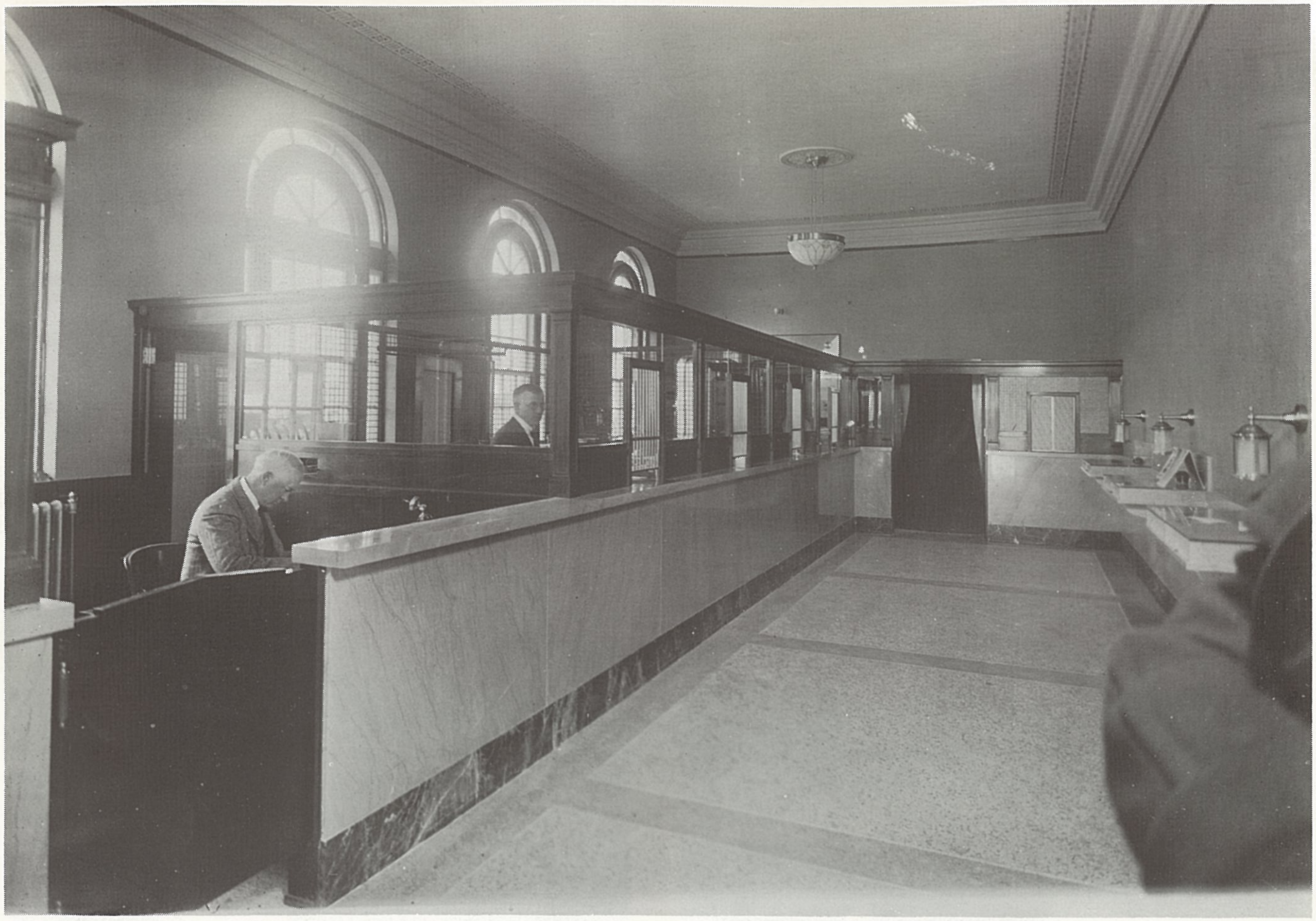
Ovid's first bank was the private corporation founded in 1868 by J. C. Darragh & Co., including J. C. Darragh, formerly of Monroe, Michigan, and S. S. Walker and Charles Kipp, of St. Johns. This firm was succeeded in 1873 by Sowers & White, who were in business only a short time. A First National Bank was opened about 1880, in the M. O. Lewis Building, which was part of the present Ovid Hardware Building. In 1897, the State Saving Bank of Ovid was organized. John Robson, M. L. Taft, H. A. Potter, W. R. Shaw, and O. B. Campbell were the principle stockholders. Their bank was located on the corner of Main and Front Streets, (the present location), in a store building. Considerable remodeling was accomplished in 1921, resulting in a new front to the building, as well as, many changes to the interior. After the death of Mr. Robson, the President of the organization, the business was sold to the Central National Bank in 1964.



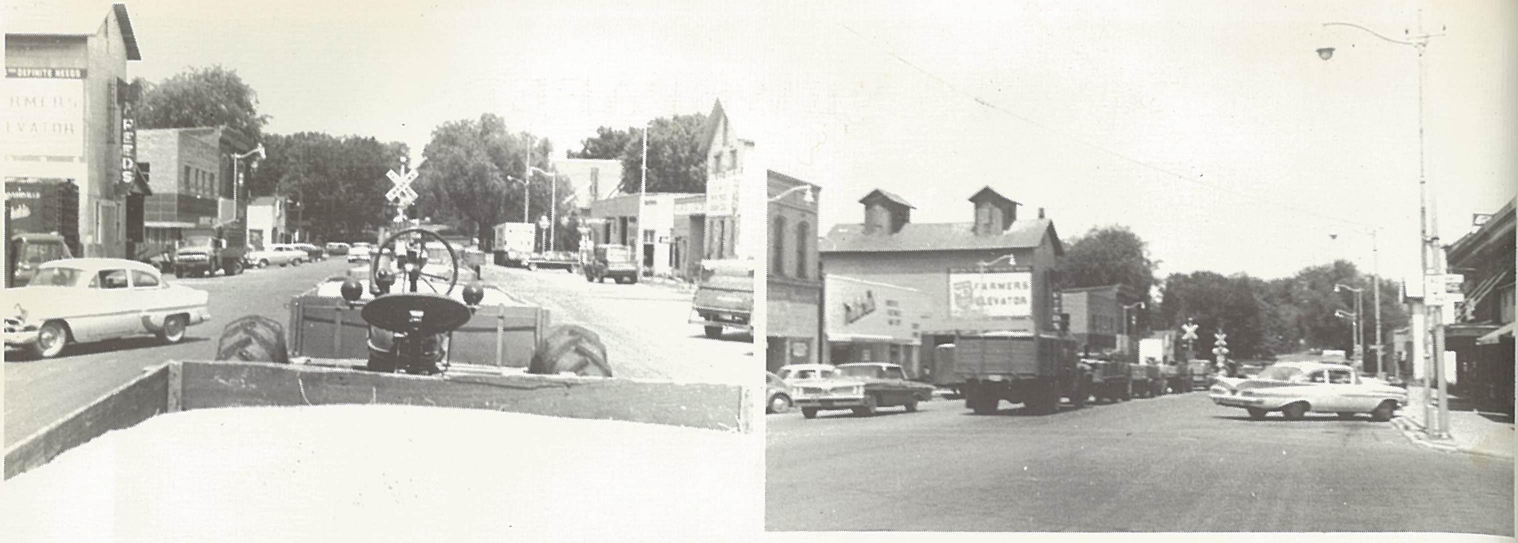
Kenneth Crawford, Harold Beardslee, and Elias Sparks on steps of Bank building before remodeling in 1921. This bank was established in 1897.



After Remodeling.
1921



John H. Robson, President, and Harold Beardslee, Cashier, at work at Ovid Bank.


FEEDS
FARMERS ELEVATOR

Farmers waiting in line to unload grain at the Farmer's Elevator on Main Street.

CITIES SERVICE

Clare Crawford

CITIES SERVICE

James Whittemore

Ovid Oil is observing 30 years of continuous business at the same location on the corner of Mill Street and Front, under the management of Clare Crawford and James Whittemore.

OVID'S NEWSPAPERS

Robert D. Martin

The publisher and proprietor of Ovid's first newspaper was J. C. Wickwire. This paper was given the name, "Ovid Register." However, the paper was sold to Mr. S. H. Egabrood, a few months after the first publication.

Among the earliest names appearing in the paper were: A. Guio, (a blacksmith), F. A. Voorhees, (drygoods and groceries), E. N. Fitch, Daniel Jamison, and J. Q. Patterson, (Attorneys). Other items appearing in these early papers, was an ad by J. D. Sickels, Road Commissioner, asking for bids, for the construction of the new Ovid-St. Charles Road, and one advertising for new industries to locate in Ovid, where they would be free from labor troubles of the larger cities. Interested parties should write to the Secretary of Men's Century Club of Ovid. News items were almost nonexistent in those early days; but Court News, Legal Notices, and lengthy discourses, often by the editor, were common.

In 1879, a second newspaper was published in Ovid. This one went under the name "Clinton and Shiawassee Union", with J. W. Fitzgerald, Editor and Publisher. In the late 1800's, the two papers combined with Reeves and Allen, the new publishers. After the death of Mr. Allen in 1887, Reeves and Carrier published the paper until 1889, when they, in turn sold to F. A. Bement, in 1889. Mr. Bement published the paper until 1902, when he sold the business to W. J. Martin, who was the Editor and Publisher for the next forty-eight years. W. J. Martin retired in 1950, selling the paper to his son, Robert D. Martin, who published the Ovid Register Union until July, 1967, when he closed the business because of ill-health.

> The latter part of a wise man's life is taken up in curing the follies, prejudices, and false Opinions he had contracted in the former. -Jonathan Swift

HEADLINES, ADVERTISEMENTS, AND NEWS ITEMS FROM THE THREE NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN OVID OVER THE PAST 101 YEARS.

The

$1,50 Per Year.

The Ovid Register.

Published every Thursday.

S. H. EGABROAD,

PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS:
1,50 A Year.
IN ADVANCE

VOL. I 1866

— During the year 1866 —

The First Baptist Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church had been established here for six years and the Baptists dedicated their new building in 1865 and the Methodist their new building in 1868.

The war between the states is over, but many problems confront the nation.

The Village was planning for its incorporation in 1869.

— During the year 1876 —

Sowers & White, Bankers, corner of Main and Front were buying and selling Exchanges on any city in Europe.

Scofield & Danforth manufacurers of buggies, announce a new model.

The Clinton House has been remodeled, and D. H. Soule is new proprietor.

Clinton and Shiawassee

ONLY 75 CENTS A YEAR, A LIVE PAPER MAKES A LIVE TOWN. SIN

New Series. OVID, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1884.

Clinton and Shiawassee Union.

BY J. W. FITZGERALD.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

TERMS—Seventy-five cents per year; for six months 40 cents; for three months 25 cents. The Union and Detroit Free Press. $1.75 per

Emperor William's eyesight is failing.

The California wool crop of 1883 was 41,000 pounds.

Over 3,000,000 trees were planted in Great Britain in 1882.

No Norwegian girl is allowed to have a beau until she can bake bread and knit stockings.

Queen Victoria's Balmoral estate covers 25,350 acres, and is the gross annual value of $12,000.

"No," said Fogg, "I didn't like picture at all; but you'd better look it yourself. Don't be guided by Your taste is not so good as mine, know, and you might like it."

The secret-service division of

D. W. Emmerson M. D
Eclectic Physician, Duplain, Clinton County, Michigan, All calls promptly attended to.

PRICE'S RESTAURANT.
L. N. Price Proprietor. Warm or Cold Meals at all hours. Oysters, Lobsters and all kinds of canned Meats and Fruits constantly on hand. Restaurant 2nd door South of the Hardware Store, Main St., Ovid, Mich.

H. C. TERRILL. M. D.
BOTANIC & ECLECTIC PHYSICIAN.
Will attend all calls. Office open all hours of the day. Office on Front st., two doors west of Sage & Marvin's, Ovid, Mich.

BOLLES & CURRIER
SURGEON DENTISTS, Ovid, Mich.
Office over the Star Store.

OVID FLOURING MILLS.
SCHENCK & HOWE, Proprietors, Ovid, Mich. Dealers in Flour, Meal and all kinds of Mill Feed. Custom work done on short notice, and warranted to give satisfaction.
☞ The highest Market Price paid for Wheat, Corn and Oats.

THE OVID REGISTER

Your Community Newspaper Since 1866

100TH YEAR OVID, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1966

Ovid Register.

"INDEPENDENT" In Advance.

— During the year 1886 —

The Scofield Buggy Co. and the Knights of Labor settle dispute over firing of help. The plant employes about 270.

There was no graduating class in Ovid in 1886, but St. Johns had a class of 13.

There have been over 20 physicians located here since the end of the war.

Jay Retan has redecorated his popular hostelry.

Ovid has a population of 1783.

Union.

INGLE COPIES 2 CENTS

Volume 5, Number 41.

i.e the
look at
by me.
ne, you
of the

Where is that Garfield monument? The only thing that equals the spontaneousness with which this country proposes a monument is the unanimous cordiality with which it isn't built.

* * *

"Shall I take your love

-UNION.

NUMBER 1

— During the year 1896 —

Clinton County votes "wet" as local option vote is defeated.

Companies of soldiers are being formed to help in the Cuban War.

William G. Hunter was elected supervisor of Ovid, and George Stanlake, supervisor of Middlebury.

The Apollo Singing Club is organized with Prof. Kaufman as director.

F. A. Wellman starts a cheese factory in Ovid.

Three seniors graduated from Ovid High in Class of '96. School expenses for the year were $7,202.

— During the year 1906 —

H. E. Hudson & Son started a farm implement business here.

Charles H. Eaton elected President by one vote over William Woodworth.

The 36-year-old 2 story Ovid school building was completely destroyed by fire. Insured for $11,000.

The Ovid post office was moved to its new location just south of the railroad tracks.

Fred Losey slaughter house burned.

— During the year 1916 —

H. S. Beardslee bought the Princess Theater of T. J. Tubbs.

The Grace M. E. Church was remodeled with a gym and dining room in the basement, new furnace, and an electric motor to pump the pipe organ.

Two barns on the C. E. Jackson farm burned down.

William G. White was appointed postmaster.

Frank S. Alchin bought the William Woodworth garage.

Alfred Squier & Son Grocery store sold to F. E. Perkins of Lowell.

— During the year 1926 —

345 pupils and 13 teachers moved into the new school March 1. (The old school burned Feb. 27, 1925). Twenty-six seniors graduated this year.

Papers found in a metal box in the cornerstone of the Free Methodist Church showed the church belonged to the Episcopals and was erected in 1879.

The Methodist Church at Burton was destroyed by fire.

The Post Office was moved to Dr. Fillinger's building.

— During the year 1936 —

The first Kindergarten was started in the Ovid Public School.

A historical pageant "Ovid Onward", written by Miss Vera Hudson and Mrs. Ray Lewis, was given at Memorial Park by the student body of Ovid Public School. The pageant covered the history of Ovid the past 100 years.

— During the year 1946 —

The program was started for financing of a Memorial Building.

Many Ovid GI's are returning from service overseas.

The Ovid Roman football team coached by Willard Kurty, won the Central "C" Conference championship.

The three-story brick store at the corner of Main and William, known as the Shannon building and one of Ovid's first brick buildings was razed.

— During the year 1956 —

A milk strike with picketing of the local creameries by members of Fair Share Bargaining Ass'n.

John Stanton was elected Village President.

A new service station was built at the corner of Main and Clinton streets.

Dr. B. L. Bates retired after 50 years of dentistry.

Ovid's old wood water mains were replaced with new cast-iron pipes.

The Village Council purchased the Spencer Bartlett Sales & Service garage building for use as Council rooms, fire department equipment storage and voting place.

A Home for Aged was opened by Hazel Dietz.

SOCIAL LIFE

The social life of this progressive village must not be over-looked, for there were many happy days for the people. Their growing interest in various fields; the happiness and freedom of working and earning a living - all filled their hearts to overflowing.

The height of social activity was reached, perhaps, in 1871, when the population attained a peak of 1500 inhabitants. Great interest was shown in social activities in many ways. As early as 1869, a successful Baseball Nine, called the "Crescents," was organized, an Ovid Band, and a Fair Association. An Opera House was constructed, which was a very important social center. Various forms of entertainment were enjoyed from its stage.

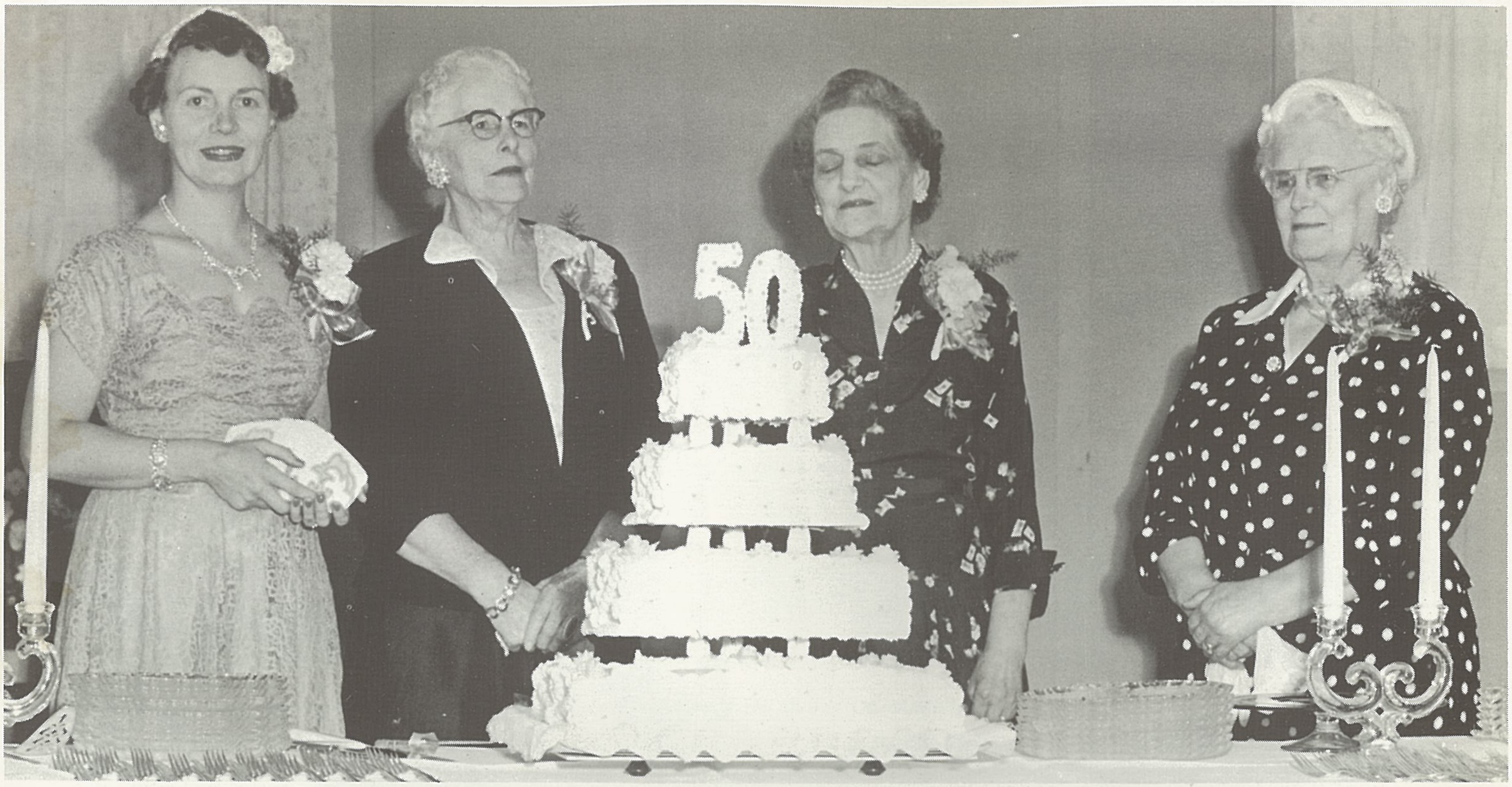
The famous Baker Institute gave incentive to higher educational ideals. A Singing School also added to their social interest.

Two Women's Literary Clubs were formed - the Progressive Club and the Crescent Club. The Progressive Club has been discontinued, but the Crescent Club is still very active, and have celebrated their Golden Anniversary. In recent years, another club has been organized - The Acme Society, whose membership is made up of the younger women of the community. They have been responsible for the erection of the Public Library, as well as the upkeep of the Library.

A Dramatic Club flourished for a time, a Centennial Pageant was presented, Gladioli festivals, Homecoming celebrations, and July 4th Activities all helped to add to the interest of the people. Now, Bowling, Soft-Ball Leagues, Little Leaguers, Bridge Clubs, Fraternal Organizations, Lion's Club, and other group activities help carry on the social activities of the community.

Crescent Club Style Show.

Cub Scouts ready for an outing.



Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the Crescent Club. Janet Bates, Minnie Hathaway, Eva Treat, and Nellie Gumaer.

Meeting of Women's Fellowship - Ovid United Church.

117
119
103
113
101

Soap-Box Derby down Main Street. Waiting for the Judges' decision.

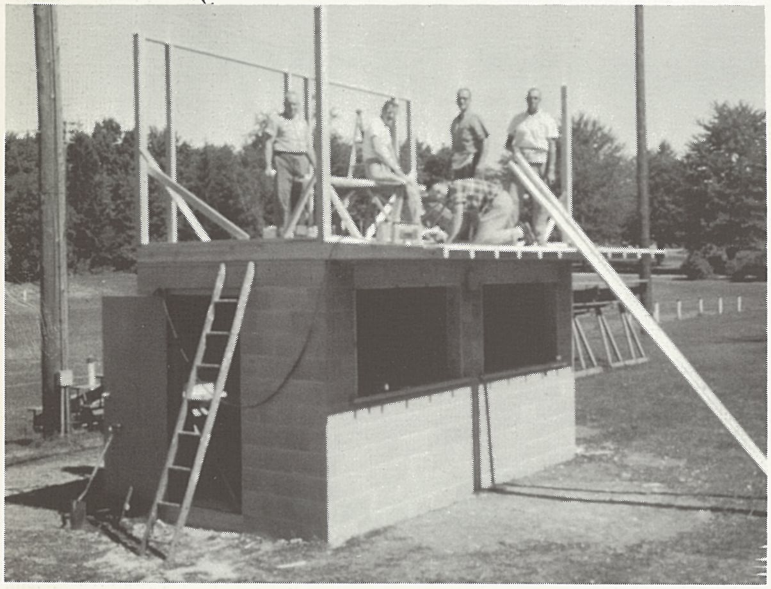
Ready! Set! Go!!

Rebecca ladies waiting their "On-stage", call.

Scene created by Dr. B. L. Bates and LeRoy Gumaer for a Gladioli Festival.

LION'S CLUB HAS MANY AND VARIED PROJECTS

The local Lions Club carries out many projects each year to finance their activities. Their annual Broom & Light Bulb sale and Car-Wash, helps in their annual contribution to the Seeing Eye School at Rochester, Michigan. They have constructed covered picnic-tables at the Gumaer Park, purchased playground equipment, and built the booth at the original Athletic Park.



Working on Concessions Booth at Athletic Field.

Main Street Car-Wash.

Constructing Picnic-Table Coverage.

STATEMADE PRODUCTS
LIONS CLUB
Assortment of LAMPS
LIONS CLUB

Hugel Leonard and Clare Crawford selling brooms.

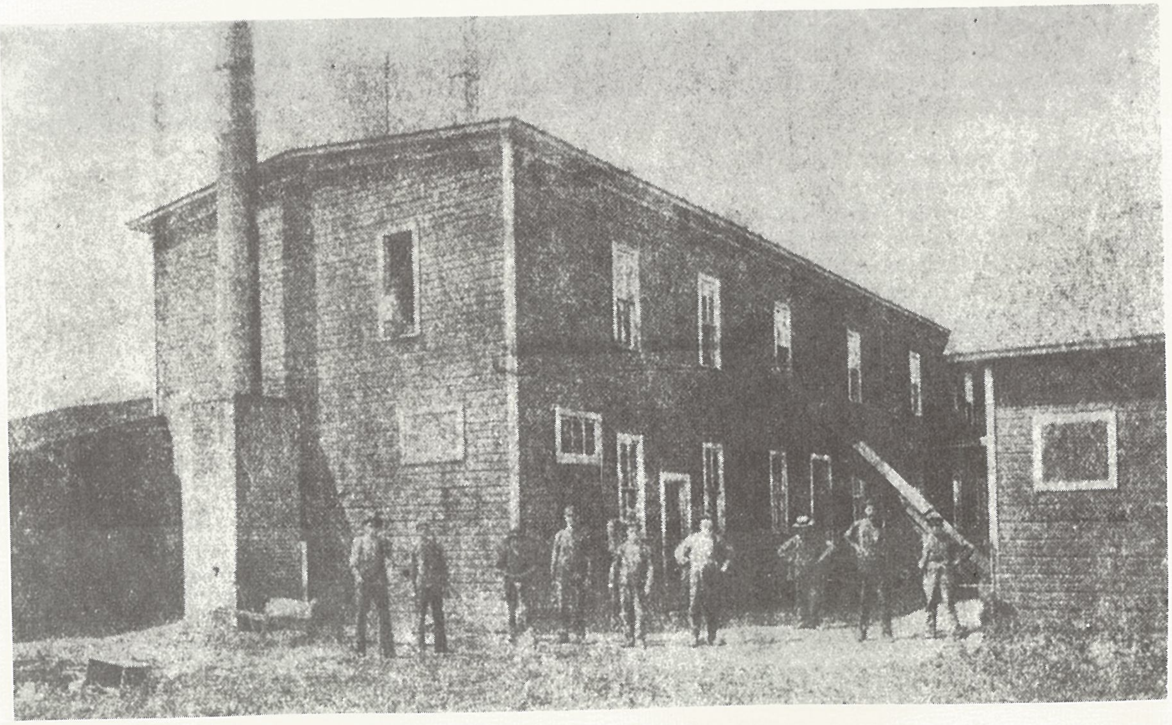
Earl Fisher, Clarence Mead, Dr. Jackson Bates, Sanford Nelson, Mitchell Das, Robert Gumaer, David Houghton and Clifford Squires have arms loaded with light bulbs ready to begin annual sale.

Food for Thought

The greatness of a nation may be manifested in many ways- in its courage, its moral responsibility, its cultural and scientific eminence, and the tenor of its daily life. But ultimately the source of its greatness is in the individuals who constitute the living substance of a nation.

-The Pursuit of Excellence.

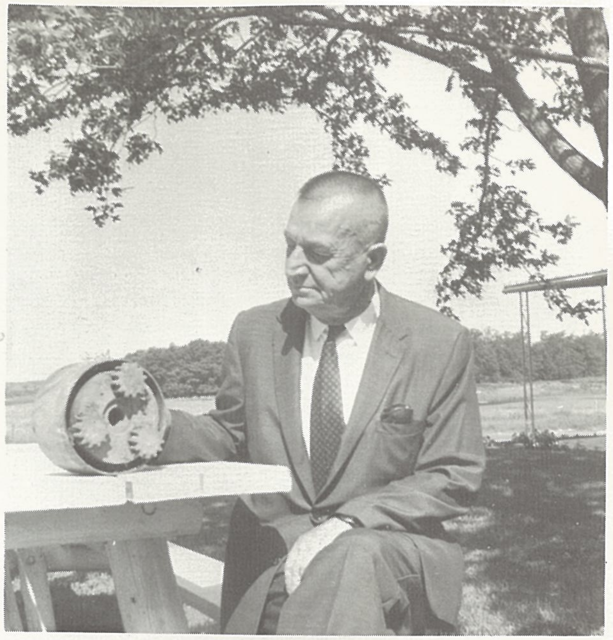
John Stanton bottling vinegar at Cider Mill.

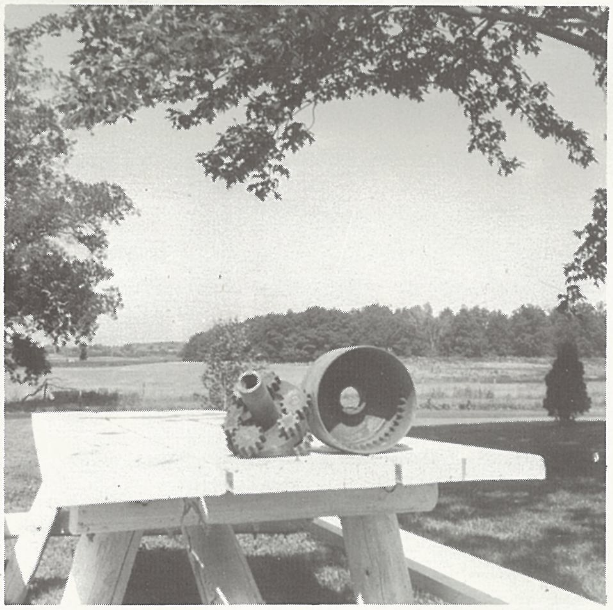


Cider Mill operated by John Stanton for many years. Property sold to Michigan Milk Producer's Association.

Art Kelley displays the first Planatary Transmission that was ever used. It was built by Matthews Brothers and incorporated in an automobile driven down Main Street for the first time on July 4th, 1903. It was later claimed by Olds and sold to Ford, who used it in the Model-T.

Frank & Fred Alchin discovered it in their Machine Shop when they purchased the building, and later gave it to Art Kelley, Sr.

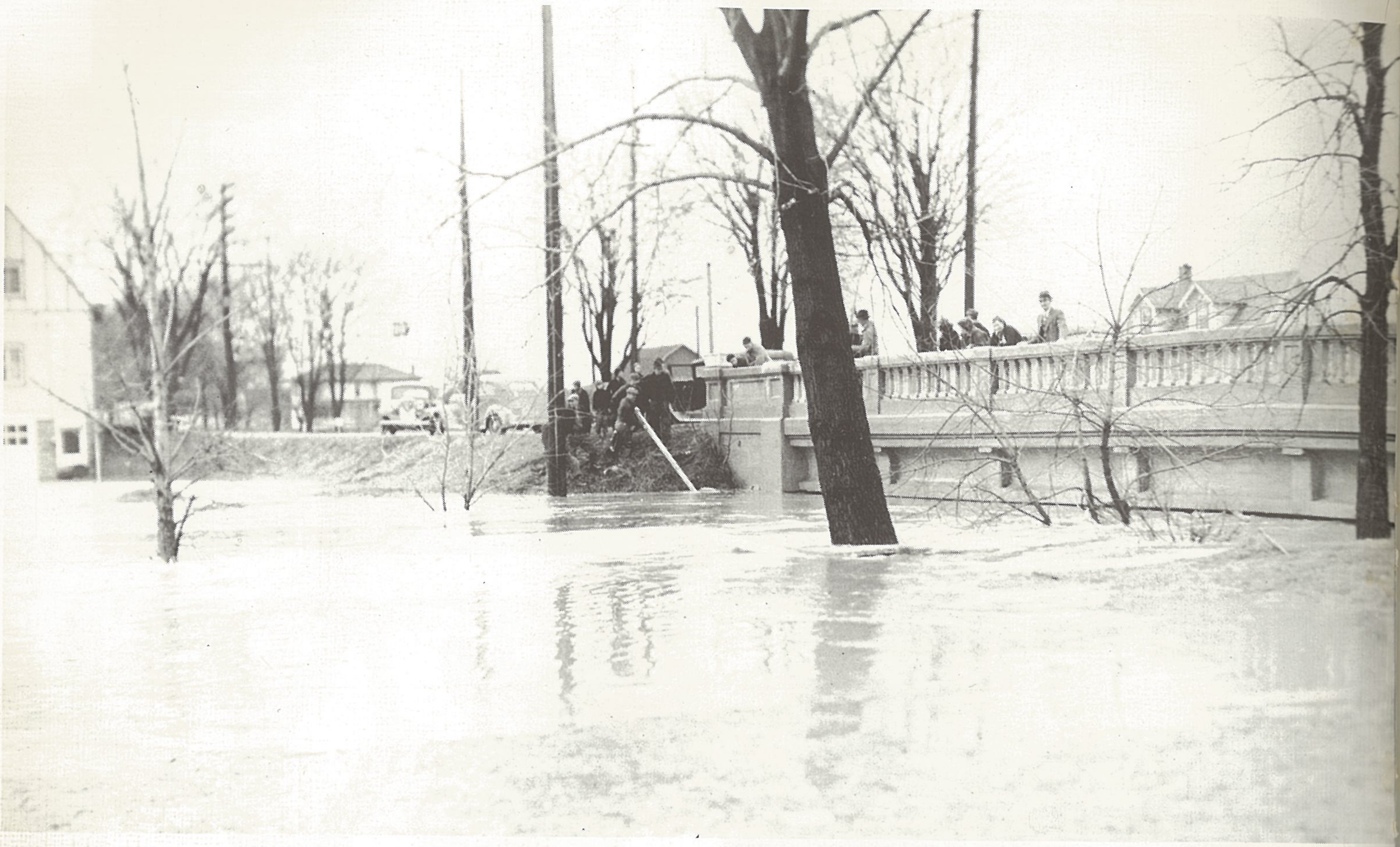




Bambi, the pet deer that adopted our town for a time. She finally outgrew the facilities offered here and was transplanted to the North Woods to live in a more natural habitat.

Black Bear-kept at Chamberlain's Zoo, north of town.

FLOOD OF 1947



Main Street Bridge

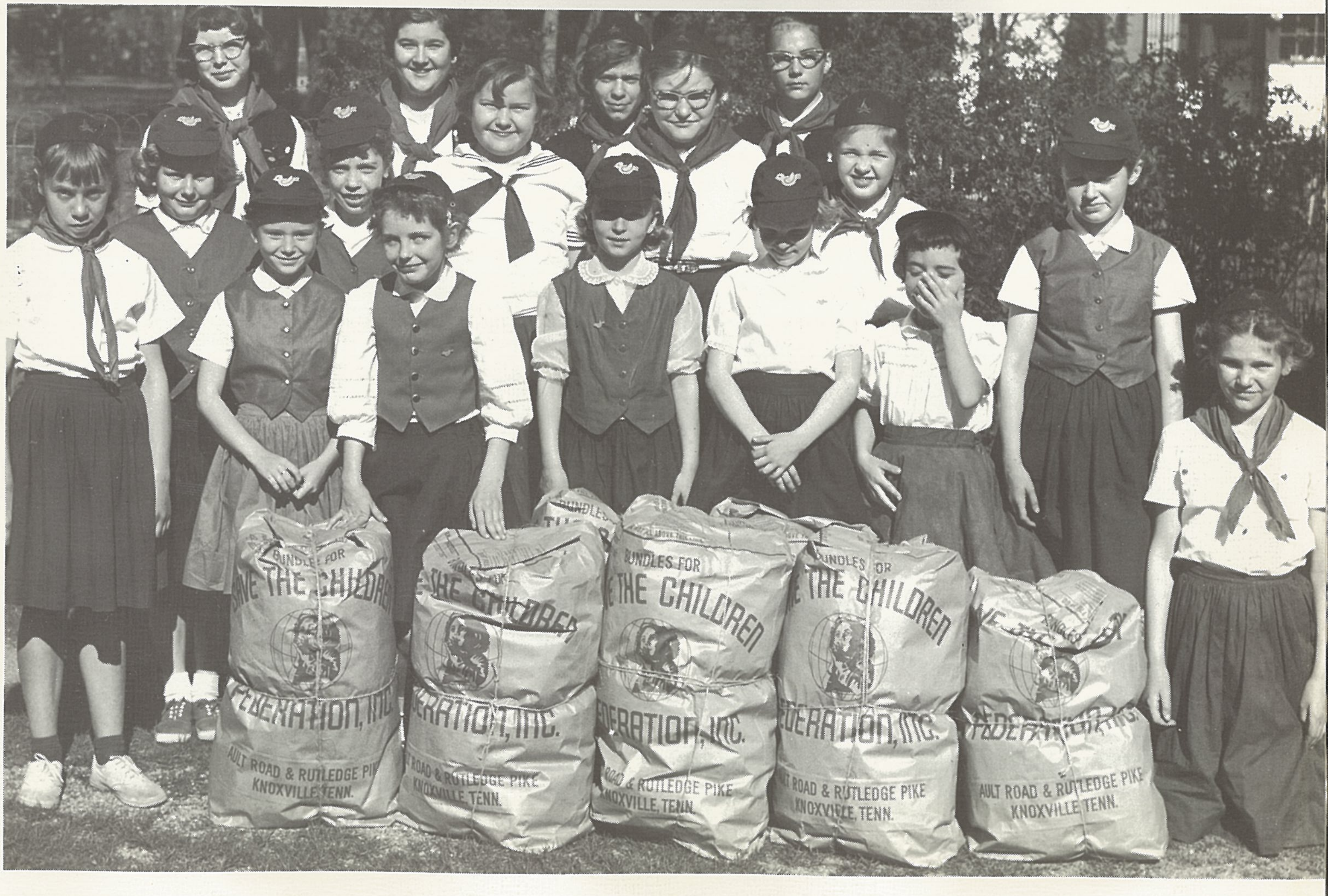
West Front Street

COUNTY ROAD

West M-21

West Clinton Street

Boy Scouts sell Christmas Trees.

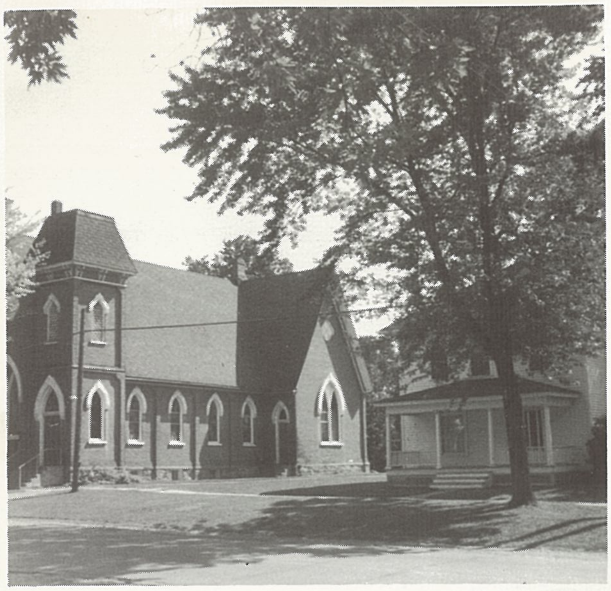

BUNDLES FOR
SAVE THE CHILDREN
FEDERATION, INC.
AULT ROAD & RUTLEDGE PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TENN.

RELIGION

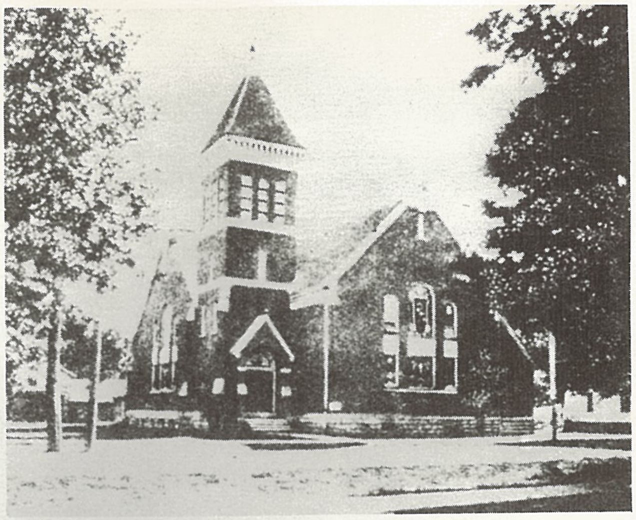
Christian people of this community have always enjoyed religious freedom. In the early days of Ovid, there was a desire for religious progress as well as social and civic progression. As early as 1869, the devout people organized the Baptist and Methodist Churches, with the help of their leaders- the Reverend P. E. Bassett and the Reverend J. Fowler.

Eighteen Baptist Christians met at the Public School-House to organize their church on February 11, 1860, with Rev. Bassett as Moderator, and Edward Potter as Clerk. Steps were taken in 1884, to erect a church sanctuary in Ovid. This was completed and dedicated December 14, 1865, at a cost of $1600.00. The Articles of Faith of the Michigan State Conference were adopted, and on February 22nd the church was recognized by a Church Council, in which the Reverends J. Booth, of Fentonville; J. McCleod of Laingsburg; George W. Lewis; Deacon French and a Mr. Rose of Owosso and Bennington, took part. The Rev. P. C. Bassett was chosen pastor and Lewis Travis, Deacon with E. Potter, the Clerk. The church purchased lots 11, 12 and 13, Block 28 for one dollar. This site is where the present church is located on South Main Street. After the construction of the Brick edifice, the old wooden structure was moved to the location of the Ovid Library, and for many years was used as a blacksmith shop.

A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent
of all the other virtues. -Cicero

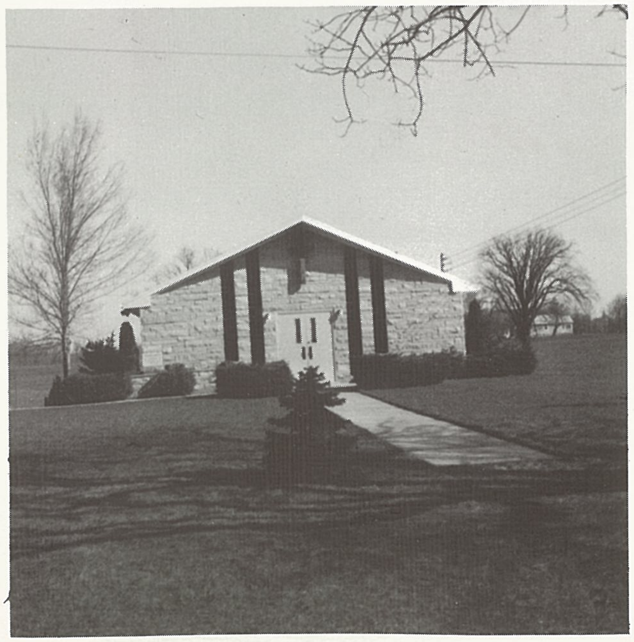


First Baptist Church and Parsonage. Built in 1865.

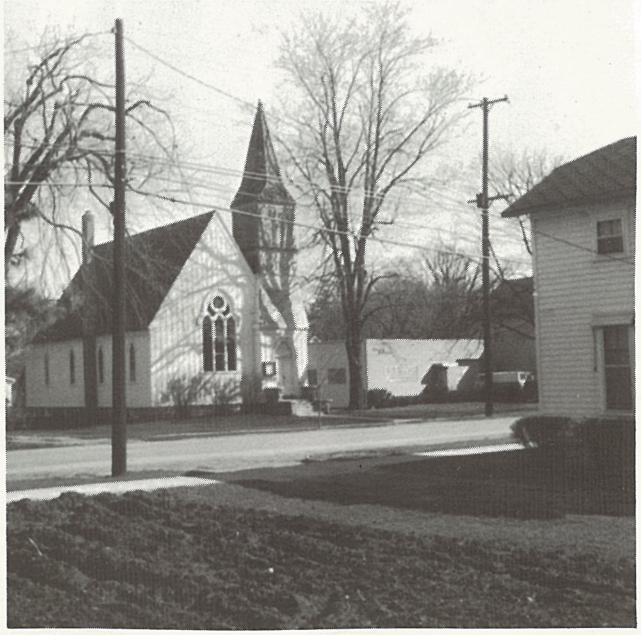


First Methodist
1868

The Ovid Methodist Episcopal Church was organized by Rev. J. Fowler, who was in charge of the Duplain Circuit. The first meeting of this group also took place in the village school-house. There were only four organizing members present at this meeting-(H. C. Shiffer and wife; W. H. Faxon and wife.) Services were held once a month in the school until 1862, then weekly services until the spring of 1868. A church edifice was erected at that time and was dedicated by Dr. Joslyn of Albion College. A parsonage was rented in 1875, and purchased in Sept. 1879. The original church building still stands on West Front and has been used continuously since its construction.



Calvary Baptist
1957



Free Methodist
1880

The First Congregational Church held its organizational meeting at the office of the Ovid Register Union, January 30, 1871. Among those present at this meeting were: Dr. C. V. Beebe, David Davis, William Fulkerson, R. G. Young, L. C. Mead, Frank Davis, D. H. Moore, F. L. Hasse, John Bennett, John Potter, J. G. Mabbitt, H. M. Enos, M. H. Goff, D. A. Howe, J. S. Kribbs, George Beebe, Harry Marvin, John Q. Patterson, T. M. Scoville and J. W. Fitzgerald.

They subscribed to the following agreement at this meeting;

> "We, the under-citizens of Ovid, herewith form ourselves into a temporary organization for the purpose of conducting Congregational Services in this village semi-weekly for the next three months, and that we will individually assist in paying all expenses that may occur; and that all meetings will be held in Metropolitan Hall until better accommodations can be provided."

The Reverend Mulder from Laingsburg, was engaged to preach, "for expenses and whatever the society saw fit to give him."

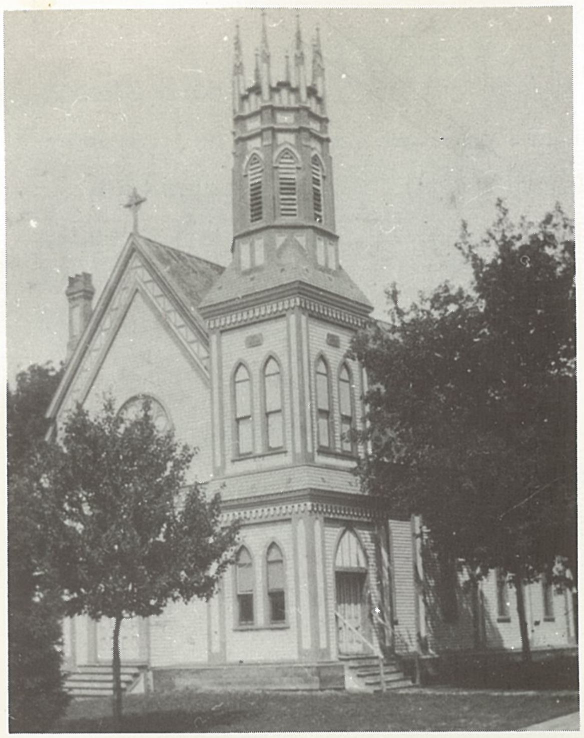
On February 13, 1871, a group of twenty-two persons formed "a body", for the purpose of organizing themselves into a Congregational Church, and on March 3, 1871, a permanent organization was completed. The first church was built on the hill on High Street, and was dedicated in 1872. The building was moved to Main Street in 1889, and underwent considerable remodeling the following year.

George Fox, (grandfather of Harold Beardslee), built the church.

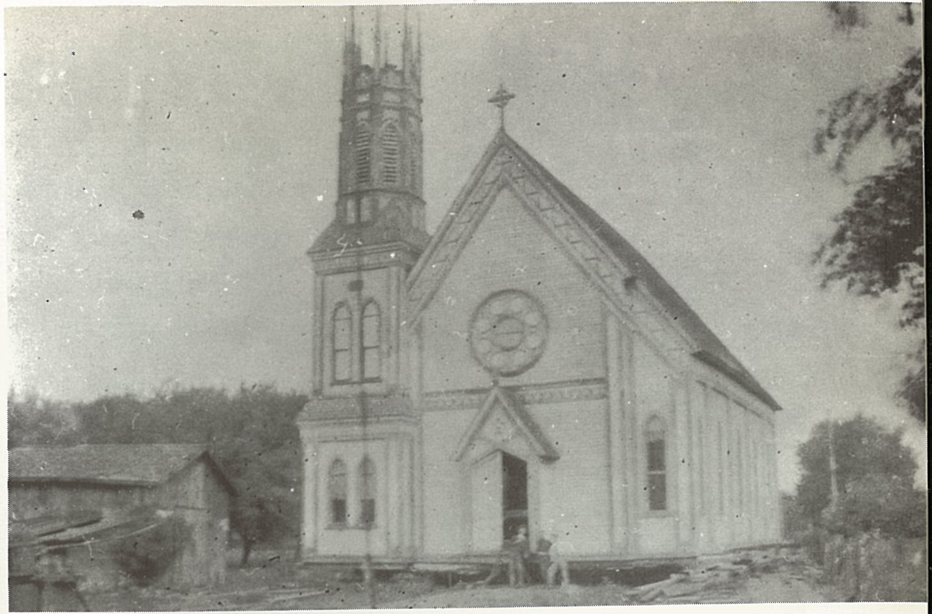
The Congregational Church structure is considered to be a good example of excellent architecture and high craftsmanship. The National Historic Buildings Survey Project has recorded this building in the Library of Congress. Pictures of the building, architectural measurements, and the history of the church will be preserved in the Archives of Congress.

The parent churches of both Congregational and Methodist denominations merged in October of 1942. After this had been accomplished, the way was opened for the union of the Ovid Methodist and Congregational Churches. The first joint service of the two churches was in June, 1942. The merger was completed after a trial period of one year under the name-Ovid United Church. Both buildings are used in the work of the church.

If a man will begin with certainties, he will end with doubts;
but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he will end
in certainties. -Francis Bacon

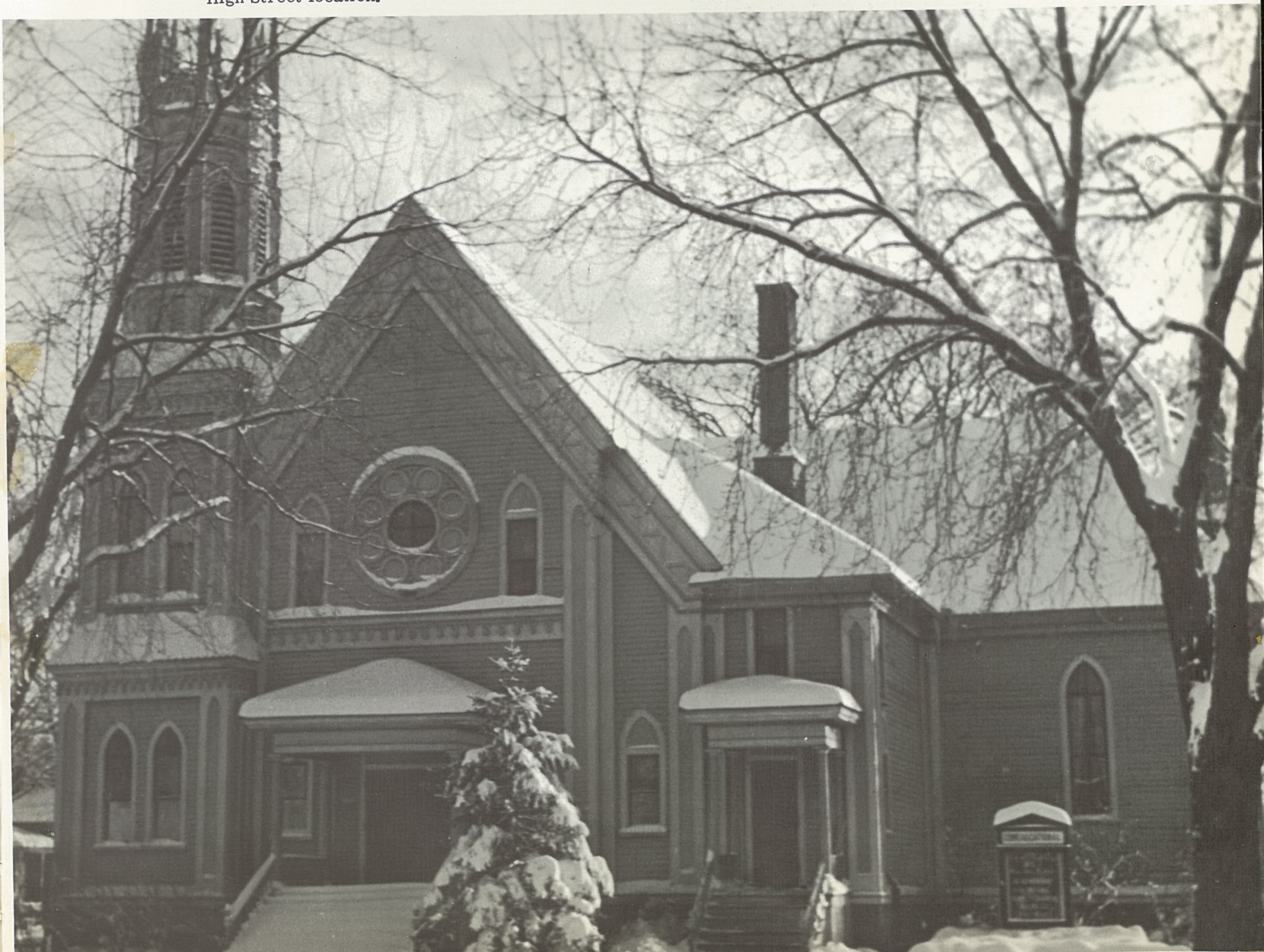


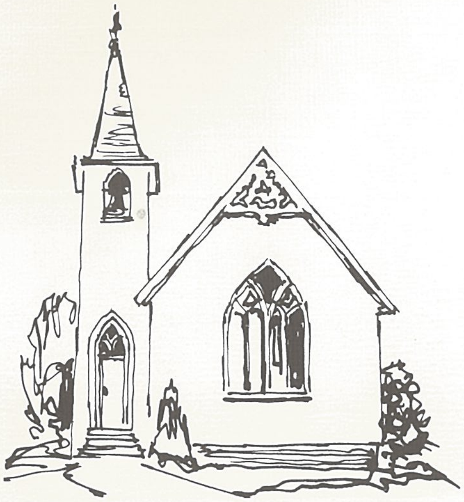
High Street location.



Moving day for the Congregational Church.

After Reconstruction had been completed.





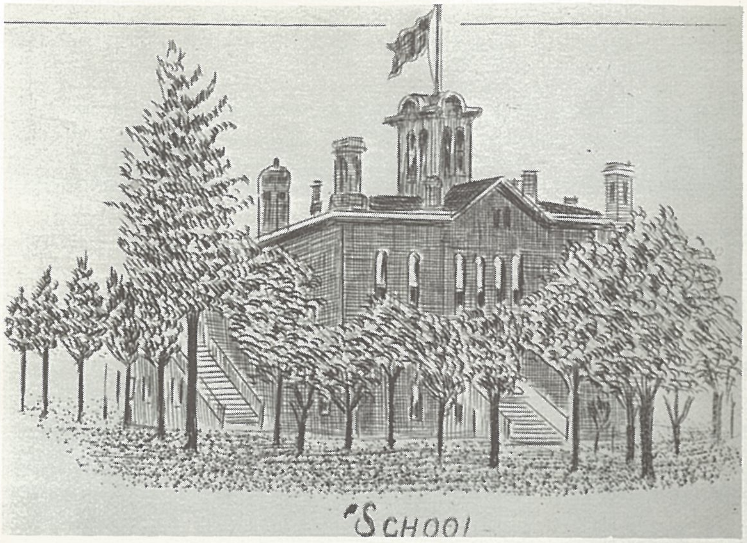
It is interesting to note that the Free Methodist Church began as the Protestant Episcopal Church. The first services held in Ovid for this group were conducted by Rev. Henry Banwell, of St. Johns, Mich., on February 1, 1866, and from that time occasional services were held by the Rectors of Churches at St. Johns and Owosso until 1875, when the Ovid Charge was established as a mission, with Rev. S. S. Chapin taking charge. Early services were held in the Congregational and Baptist Churches, at the ministers' homes, and finally in their own edifice, which was completed in July, 1880.

Other churches serving the needs of this community are the Calvary Baptist Church, located on M-21, west of Hollister Road, and St. Isadores Parish, meeting at the Veterans Hall, until a suitable structure can be built to replace the Catholic Church that burned at Laingsburg, Mich.

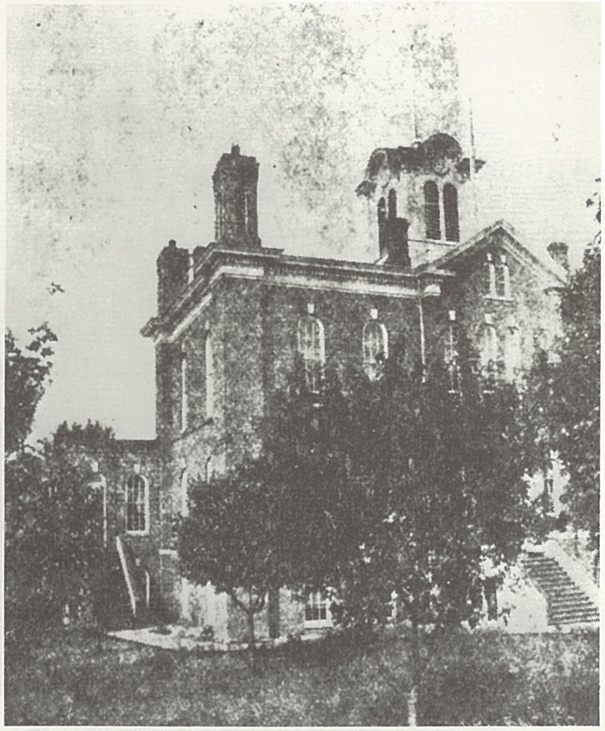
Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting- a wayside sacrament. Welcome it in every fair face, in every fair sky, in every fair flower, and thank God for it as a cup of blessing.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

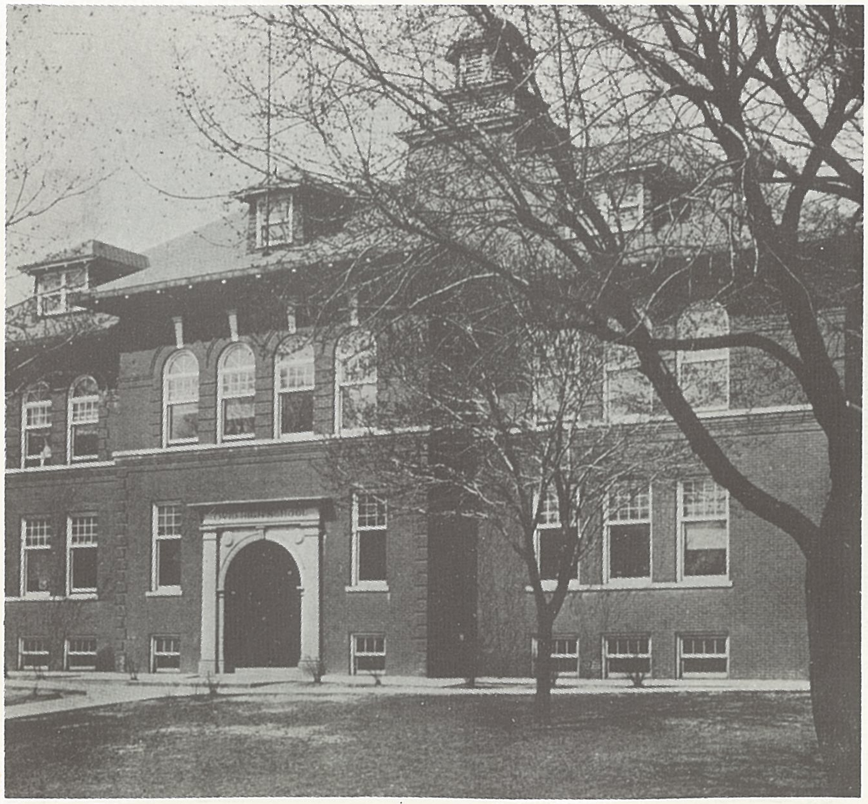
THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF OVID



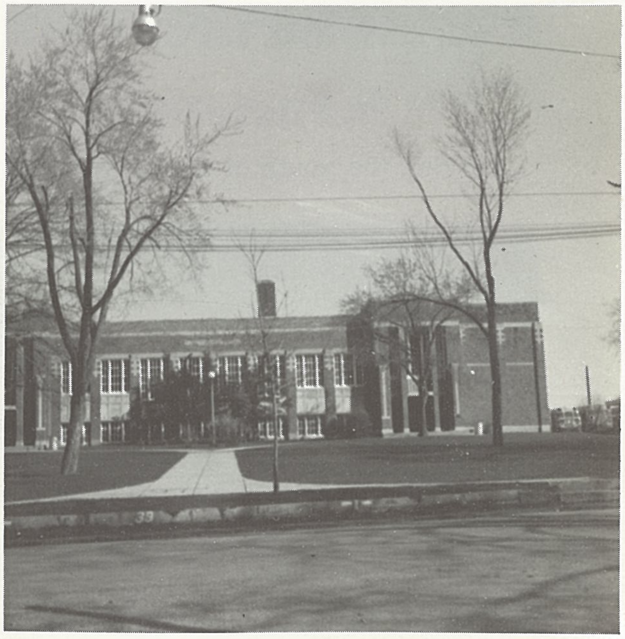
Wooden Structure, built in 1866.



First brick school - 1869 - Burned in 1906.



This building was destroyed by fire in 1924. Constructed in 1907.



Built in 1925.
Presently used as a Junior High Building.

EDUCATION

The actual formation of a school district occurred in 1840, however, the education of the village children had not been neglected prior to this. Ovid's pioneer school was built on the William Swarthout farm in Section 36, in 1839. It was built of basswood logs, and Hannah Slocum had the distinction of being the first teacher. The second teacher was Nellie Laing. It was in this schoolhouse that the town held their first church services, under the guidance of the Reverends Levi Warner and Blowers.

The first definite site for a school within the newly formed district was on Main Street, (Baptist Church location.) The building erected at this time was a frame structure built in 1866.

The first brick building was erected in 1869, costing $12,000. It housed some 322 pupils. This building was in continued service for some thirty-five years. The first graduating class received their diplomas in 1875. This building was destroyed by fire in 1906. Another school was constructed on the same location, and was also made of brick; but it too, followed the fate of the first, and was destroyed by the common enemy, fire!

After the fire of 1924, another school was built at the same location on High Street, and is serving the youth of the community today.

A movement grew from an area study group of Ovid and Elsie citizens, that it would be advantageous and advisable to combine the Ovid and Elsie School Districts. Both districts voted to adopt the recommendations of the study group, so now we see another step forward for the continued advancement of Education for the young people of both communities. A modern High School has been built on the corner of Hollister Road and Colony Road, (half-way between the two towns), and on March 20th, 1967, the student body moved to its new location.

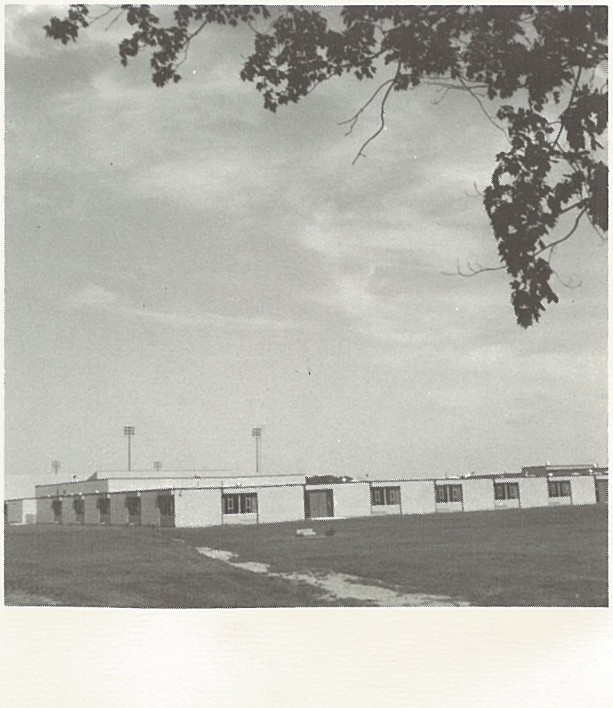
An Elementary Building was built on North Main Street, in 1953, and the East Elementary Building was constructed in 1966.

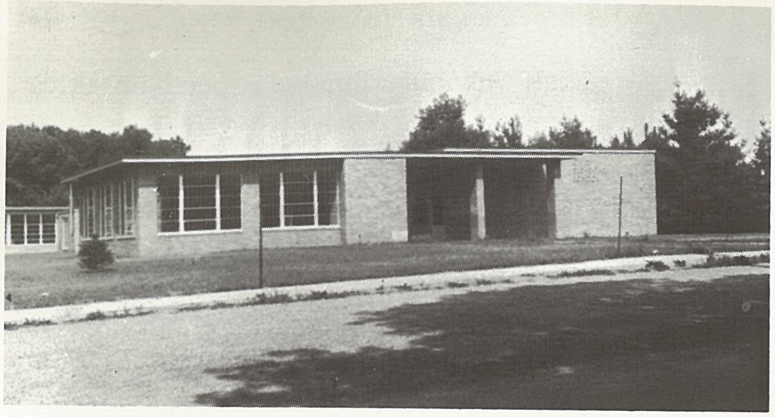
On August 31, 1899, the Ovid Public School was placed on the University List, and has had the distinction of remaining there throughout this period of time.

Students from both Ovid and Elsie High Schools attended ground-breaking services before construction began. Supt. Robert Beauchamp and Asst. Supt. Seybert do the honors with the shovels.

New Ovid-Elsie High School.

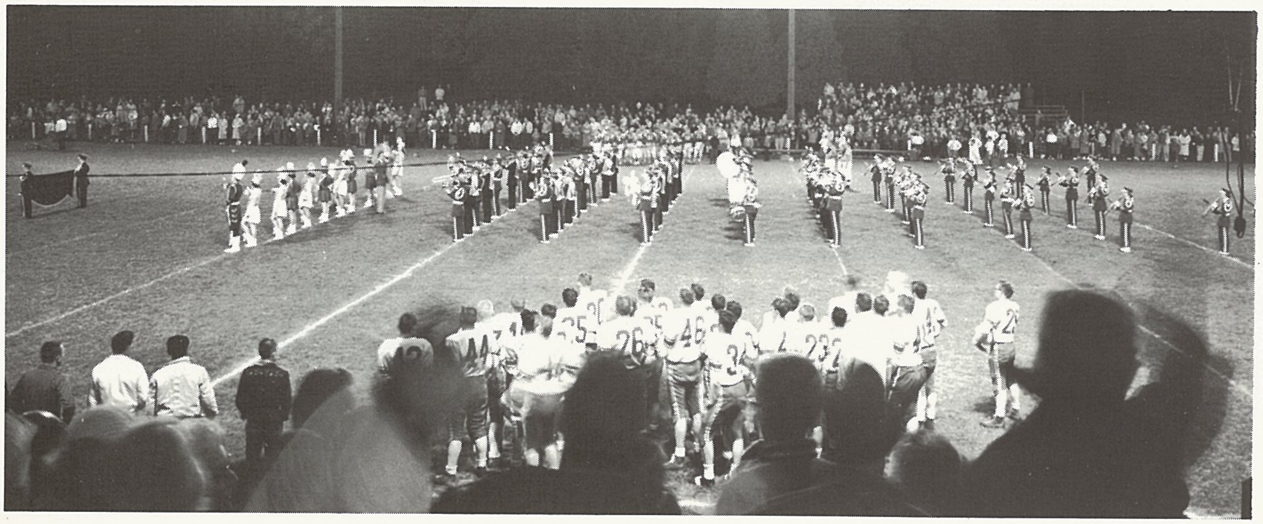
Athletic Field at Ovid-Elsie High School.





North Elementary Building.
Built in 1953-1954

East Elementary Building - 1967



High School Band performing at half-time.

HOME
TIME
VISITOR
PERIOD
DOWN
TO GO

Score Board at Athletic Field.

Children planting trees at East Elementary Building.

HIGHWAYS AND STREETS

On August 4th, 1843, Stephen Pearl and William Swarthout, Highway Commissioners, laid out a highway commencing at a stake "eighteen chains and seventy-nine links," south of the southeast corner of Section 9; thence south on the section line to the northwest corner of Section 34. Thus the street system was begun.

The next year the town was divided into seven road districts, and on March 22, the town was set off into four road districts;

No.I, contained twelve sections in the northeast corner of town;

No.2, contained the remaining six sections in the northern half of town;

No.3, contained the southwest quarter of town;

No.4, contained the southeast quarter.

There was a great need for better transportation, since those early roads were in extremely poor condition, and the settlement was growing rapidly.

More streets and roads were laid out as was deemed necessary and as time marched on they were improved.

N. MAIN ST. #8. OVID

The streets are lined with shade-trees "Now", as they were "Then".

STREET AND WATER DEPARTMENT

The new building housing the equipment for the Street and Water Departments of Ovid, was constructed in 1965, replacing the structure built in 1888. This building houses the Village Maintenance Equipment, Pumps and Water-Treatment Unit.

The Common Council passed an Ordinance on April 17, 1888, to let a contract for the construction of a system of water works in the village to the Michigan Pipe Company of Bay City, Michigan. Said company to use the Gordon and Maxwell Pumps, and to enter into a contract for the performance of said work, and to give a bond as required by the specifications on file in the office of the Village Recorder. On April 23, 1888, the Council awarded a contract to the Michigan Pipe Company for the construction of a building for the Water-Works Department. The lot on the corner of Gratiot and Williams Streets was purchased for $6.00. The first water system was constructed in the summer of 1888, at a cost of $30,000.00. This system incorporated a wooden water-tower and wooden water mains. These were in constant use until 1947, when some of the wooden mains were replaced by metal pipes, and the present elevated steel water-tower was erected. The last of the wooden water mains had been replaced by July, 1955.

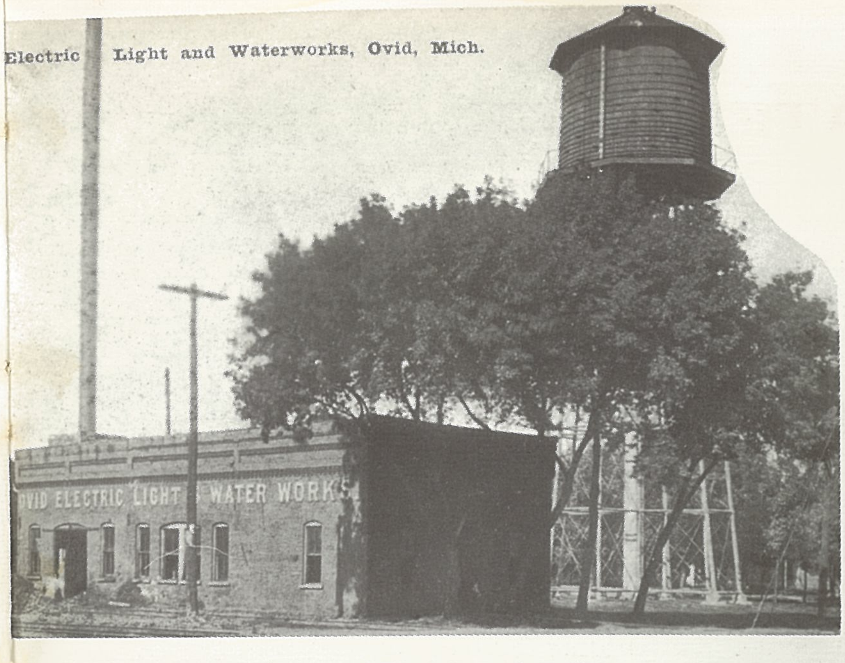
The building erected in 1888, also housed an Electric Generating Plant, as Ovid supplied its own electricity for many years, until Consumers Power Company assumed that responsibility.

Another Ordinance was passed by the Council on September 10, 1888, providing for the Care, Protection, Preservation, and Control of the Village Water-Works, and all the Fixtures, Appurtenances, Apparatus, Buildings and Machinery connected therewith or belonging thereto, and to authorize the Employment of Engineers, and other Persons about the Water-Works, and to prescribe their Duties and Powers.

Then on April 10, 1947, the Village entered into a Contract with the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company to purchase a steel water storage tank, and for the construction of said tank and such water mains as were considered necessary at that time.

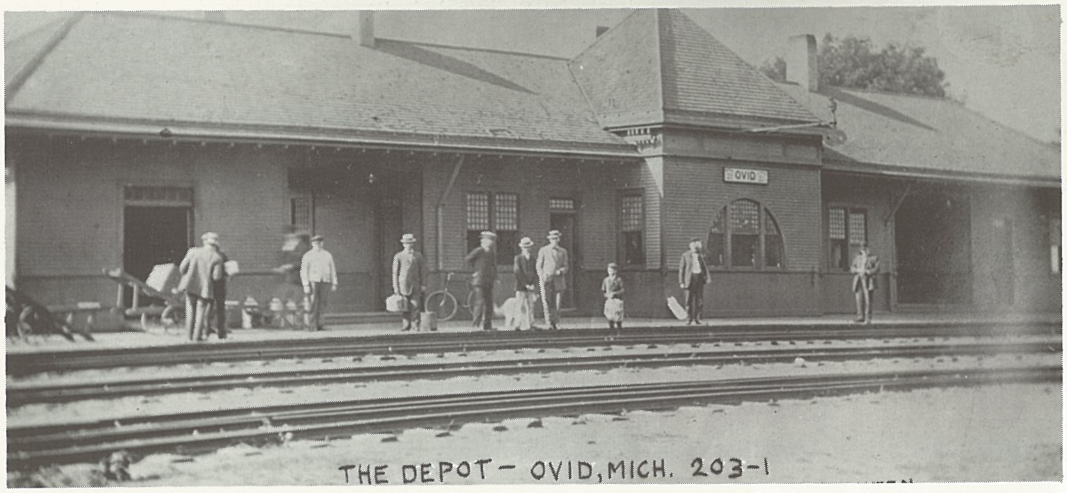
Four hundreds dollars had been set aside, when the Gratiot Street Lot had been purchased, for the drilling of another well whenever it was deemed necessary. Thus another well was drilled on West Front Street in 1948, and these two wells supply the needs of the town.

Opinions that are well routed should grow and change like a
healthy tree. -Irving Batcheller

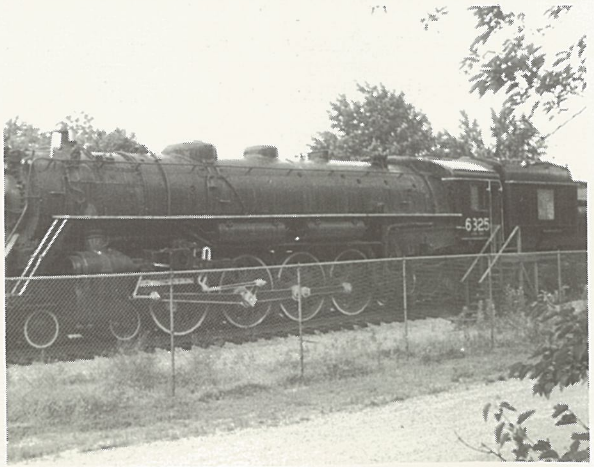

Electric Light and Waterworks, Ovid, Mich.
OVID ELECTRIC LIGHT & WATER WORKS

Old Water and Electric Dept. Building.

New Street and Water Department Building.


OVID
THE DEPOT - OVID, MICH. 203-1

Original Depot built on the land given to the Railroad by Mr. Frisbie.



Old Grand Trunk Engine used on tracks through Ovid in the early years.

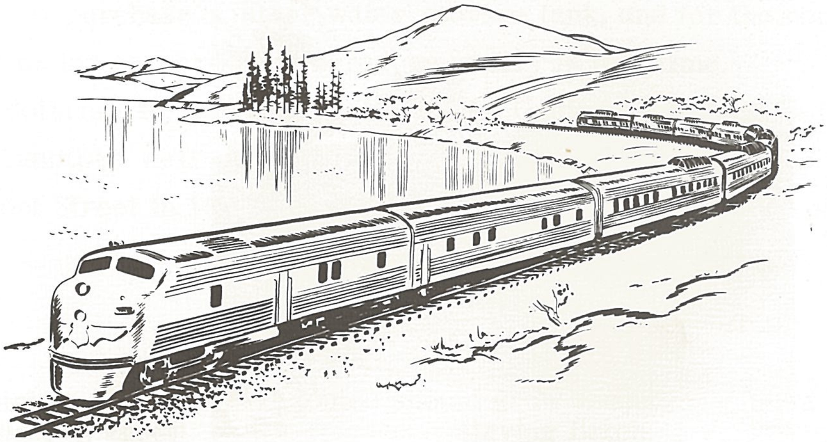
RAILROADS

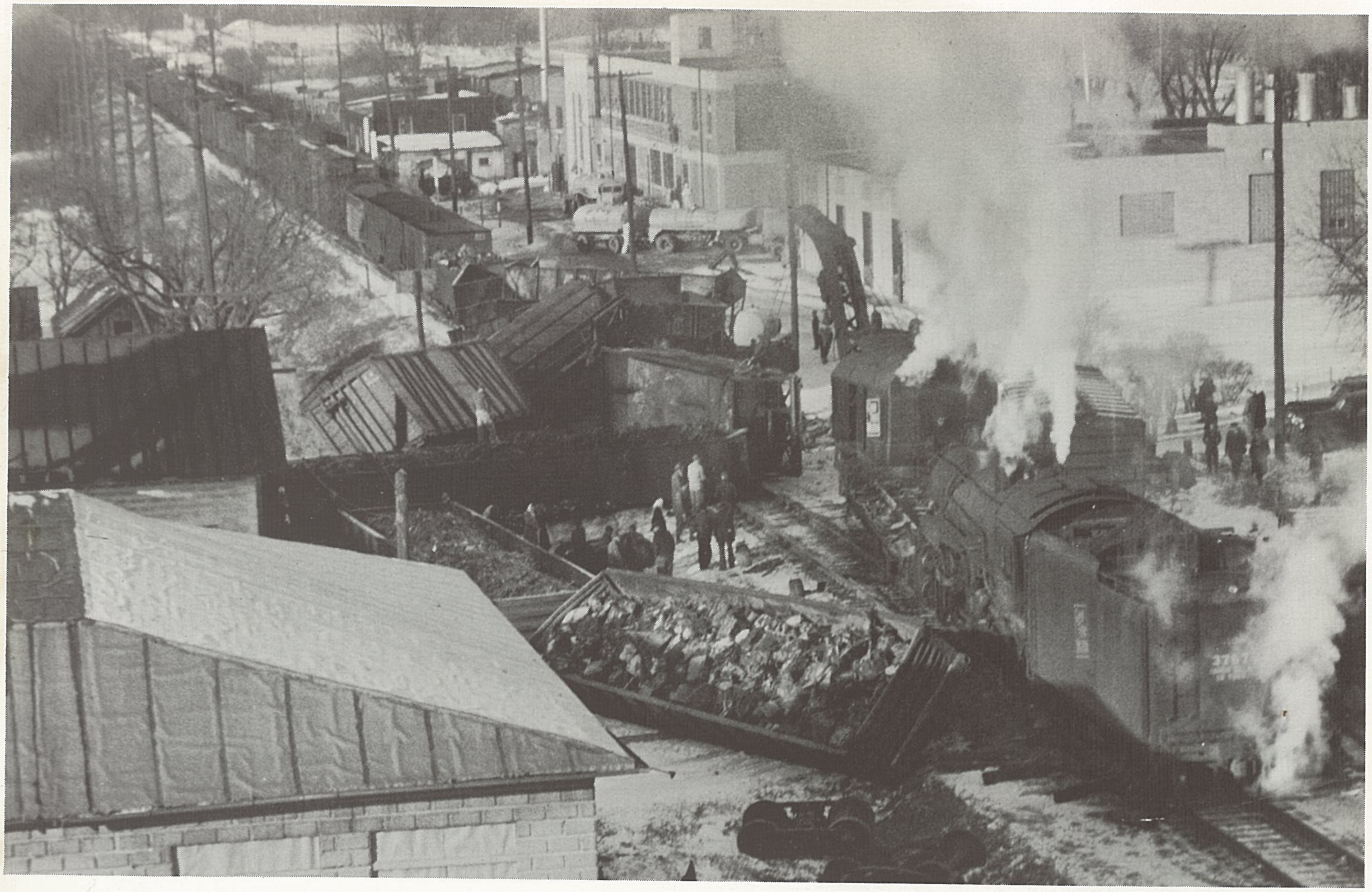
An important milestone was reached when a railroad company applied for a right-of-way through the village. Those with an eye toward the improvement of the village wanted to be sure that the railroad would furnish much needed transportation for the inhabitants.

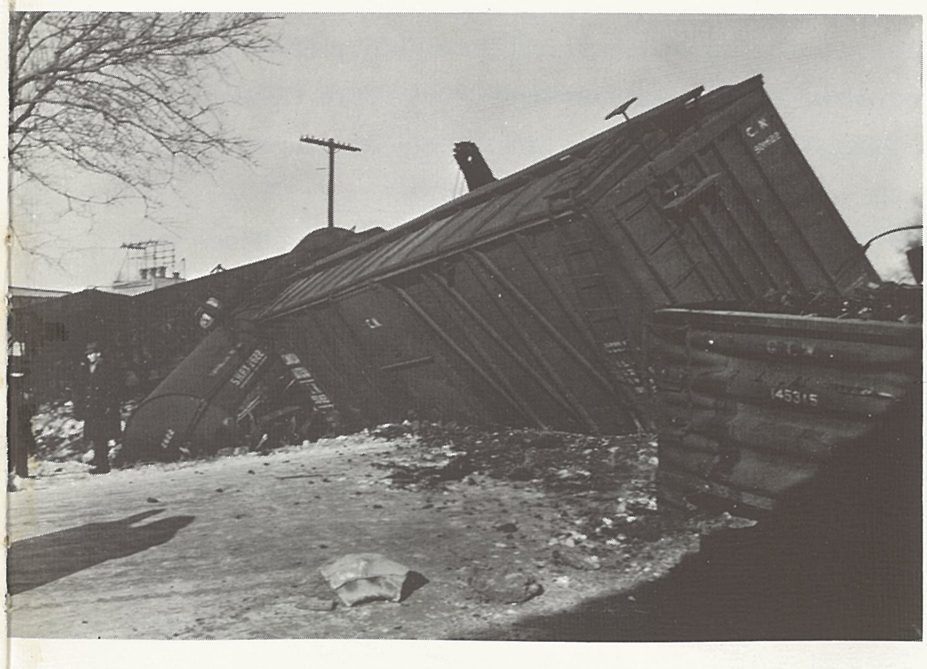
While the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad was in the course of construction, J. C. Gumaer, of New York, and a landowner in this area, sought to have a railway station on property he owned in the township of Ovid. He sent W. H. Faxon, of Duplain, to consult the railway directors with the proposition. Mr. Faxon visited H. P. Baldwin, a leading member of the Board of Directors, in 1856, and offered to donate $2000.00 and five acres of land to the railroad, if they would locate at a site one mile east of Ovid. Mr. Baldwin seemed to regard the proposition with favor and promised to consider it. Negotiations were not satisfactory for some reason, and to compromise existing differences, Williams, Gould, and Higham (Chief Engineer of the R.R.) agreed to purchase land now occupied by the Village of Ovid, and there through Higham's efforts and Mr. Frisbies' gift of land, the Ovid Station was located between Main Street and Gratiot.

There was great rejoicing at the prospect of a railroad running through the village, and greater enthusiasm when the first train came steaming into town on December 25, 1856, at ten o'clock in the morning of that most memorable day.

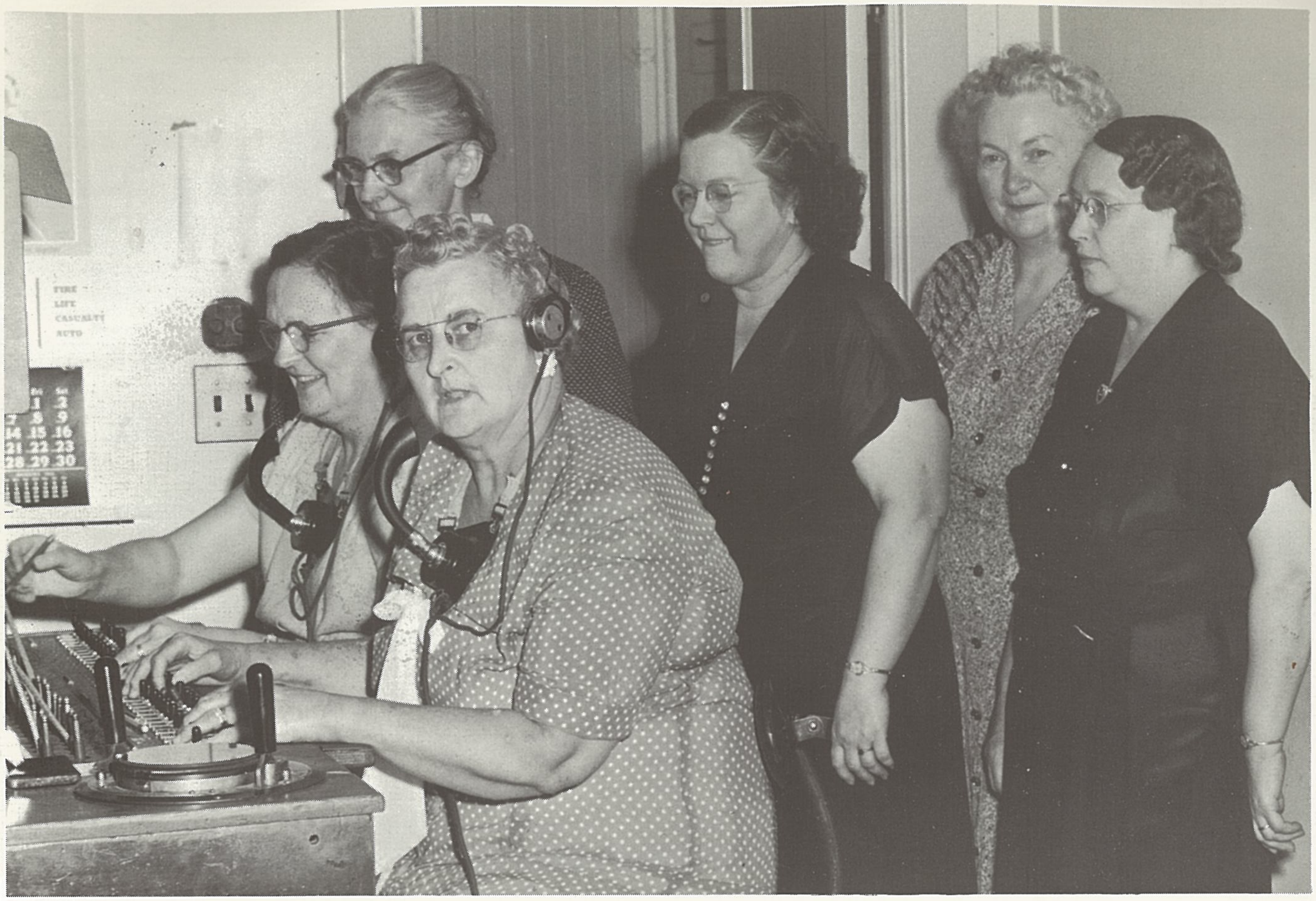
Ovid, like many other towns, got its first real impetus in the years when railroad interests were making their big expansions, criss-crossing the state with their rails and ties. The Grand Trunk Railroad began expanding its operations at this time, and in 1858, absorbed the original line running through Ovid, and although passenger service has been discontinued, the company still maintains freight service to communities on their routes.





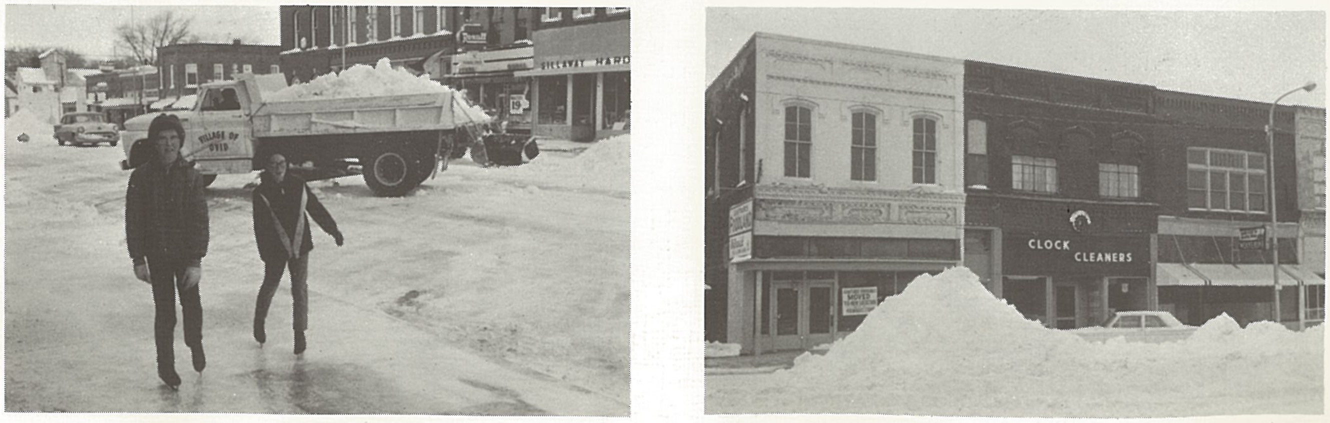

C.N.
G.T.W.
145315

Train wreck at the West Street Crossing on Grand Trunk tracks in 1948.

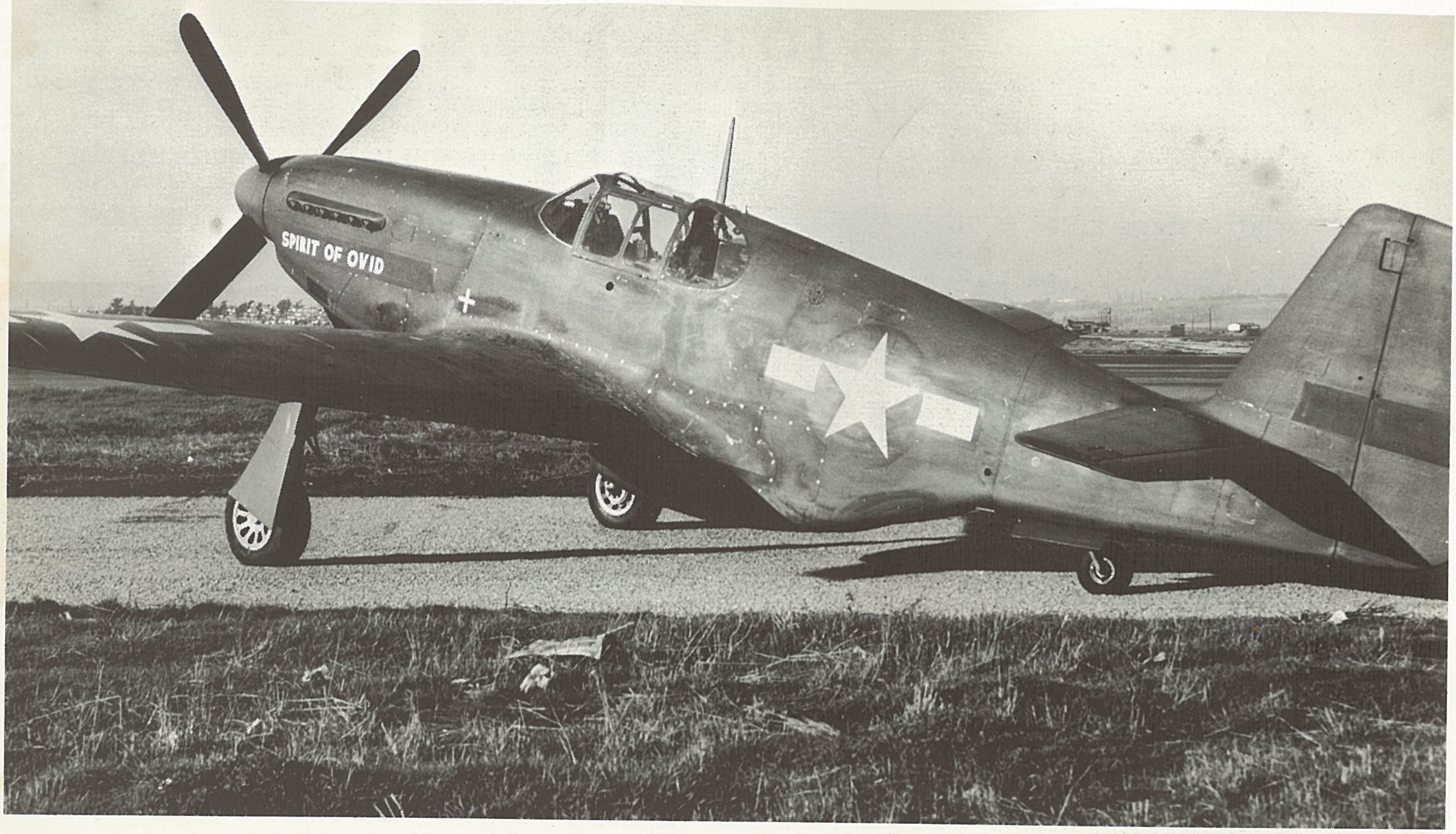

FIRE
LIFE
CASUALTY
AUTO

The last day for Telephone Operators to plug calls was celebrated by picture taking to commemorate the event. Pictured above are Mrs. Ethel Shinabery, Mrs. Vera Cannon, Mrs. Frank Evelyn, Mrs. A. C. Willard, Mrs. Hilma Bacon and Mrs. Leota Groom, at the Ovid office.

Mrs. Leota Groom remained with General Telephone Company, when the offices were moved to St. Johns, Mich.


VILLAGE OF OVID
GILLAWAY HARD
CLOCK CLEANERS
MOVED

The Big Snow Storm - Winter - 1967



The "Spirit of Ovid", a pursuit plane, awarded to the community of Ovid, for purchasing more war bonds than its quota during the Second World War. The Field Director of the U. S. Treasury, wrote the following to Mr. John H. Robson, chairman of the War Bond Drive:

> "It is a pleasure to transmit to you the enclosed photograph of the pursuit plane named "Spirit of Ovid", in recognition of the war bond purchases made by the people of your community."

The "Spirit of Ovid", painted on its nose, really meant more than "Over the Top".

OVID PARK

It was the custom of patriotic people, at the close of World War I, to erect some sort of memorial to those killed in the war. Thomas Hyslop conceived the idea of building a city park. Meetings were held, with the result that seventeen acres north of First Street were purchased. The necessary $1700.00 was raised by popular subscription. A Trusteeship was formed with Tom Hyslop, LeRoy Gumaer, John Robson, E. C. Smith, and Dr. B. L. Bates comprising the membership. The necessary land was purchased from A. D. Moulton and Harold Beardslee. Mr. Harlow Whittemore, a Landscape Architect from the University of Michigan, was engaged, Plans were drawn up, a circular drive laid out, and trees and shrubs were planted according to the blueprints. Many of the trees around the circular drive were planted by the Seniors of Ovid High School. However, the White Pine Grove and many of the shrubs were planted by Mr. Gumaer. He obtained the seedlings from Michigan State University. Space was reserved for a combination ball-diamond and gridiron. An open ditch was tiled and graded, and with the ever-green background, a beautiful ampi-theater was created. This section of the park was transferred to the Ovid Public School, and is used as an athletic park.

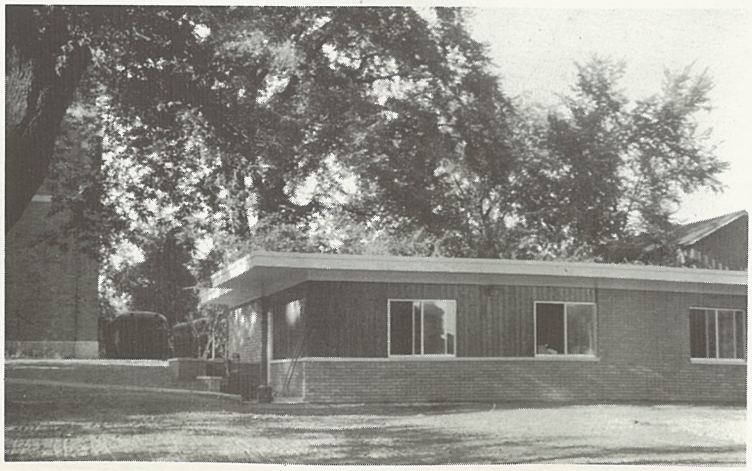
The park was enlarged by ten acres to the north, with funds donated by the Modern Woodmen Lodge, who were disbanding. Mr. LeRoy Gumaer spent countless hours in this section of the park, setting out trees and shrubs. Some of the trees in the North Park came from the Les Cheneaux Islands in the Straits of Mackinac; these were growing wild on the island, so were transplanted in the Ovid Park. This section of the park was named in honor of Mr. Gumaer, with a suitable bronze plaque at the entrance, which was financed by Ovid School Children. The Lion's Club erected an appropriate sign at the front gate, and naming the North Park - The LeRoy Gumaer Memorial Park. The Lion's Club has also contributed playground equipment, picnic tables, shelters, and outdoor stoves. The park is used extensively by the townspeople and people from surrounding areas for picnics, family reunions, relaxation, and for just a deep appreciation of the beautiful. What a fitting tribute to one of Ovid's citizens!

ROY GUMAER
MEMORIAL
PARK

Entrance to Gumaer Memorial Park.

Athletic Field and Natural Ampi-Theater.

Playground at Memorial Park.



Offices, beside the Jr. High Building.

OVID THEATER

Mr. Custer Waltz started in the theater business April 12, 1912, where the Farmers Elevator office now stands, then known as the McCarty building. This theater was composed of 100 folding chairs, screen and one moving picture machine. The operator was Ray Worden. In the beginning Mr. Waltz ran two reels for 5¢, later going to three reels for 10¢. The first pictures shown were from the Universal Film Company. After two years Mr. Waltz purchased a building across from Dr. Elliott's office, and named it the Pasttime. Leon and his brother Claude operated the machine by hand with a two minute stop between reels to change reels. Music for the silent films was furnished by Howard Vaughn and Opal Allen on a piano.

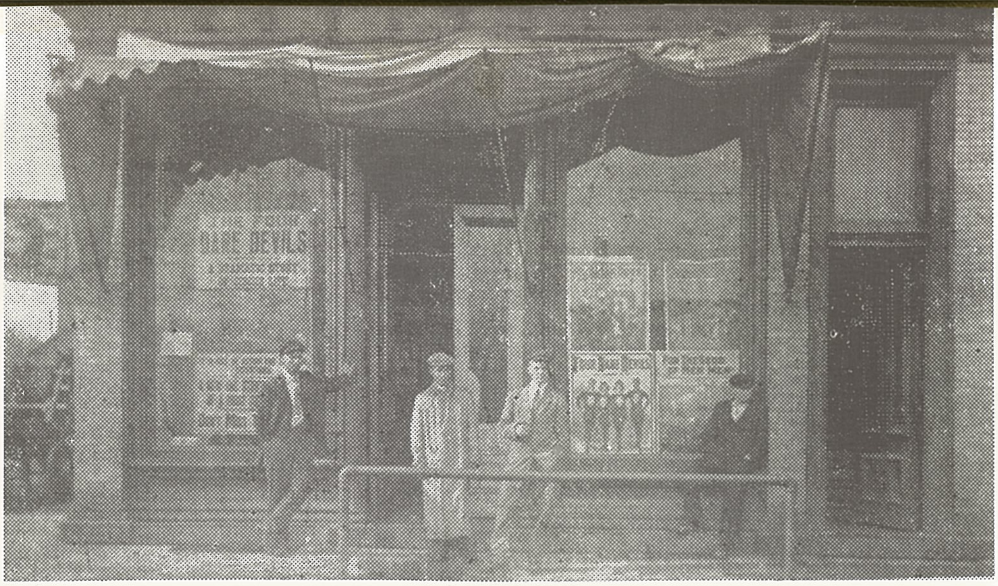
In 1914, the Main Street location was built by Wm. Montague and sold to a Mr. Tubbs of Owosso and for two years Ovid had two theaters, both well attended.

Then Harold Beardslee became interested in the theater business, and in 1916 he and Mr. Waltz joined in partnership and closed the Front Street Theater, named the Main Street Theater, State Theater. Mrs. Beardslee furnished piano music during the showings at this time.

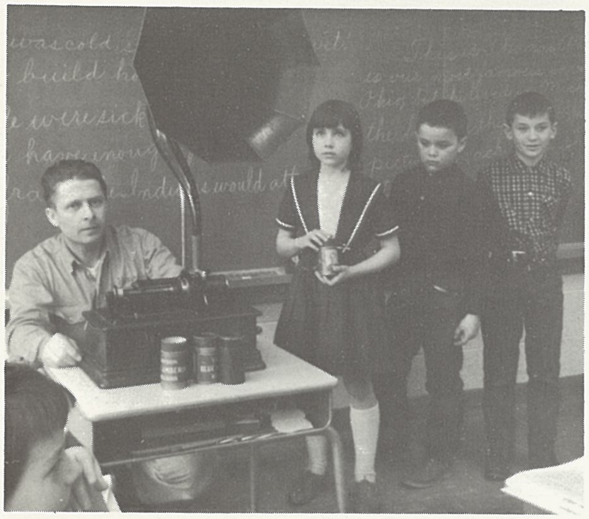
Later, Mr. Beardslee sold his interests to Mr. Waltz & son Claude. In 1939. The Waltz firm sold to Paul Meder, who in turn sold in 1947. The ownership changed hands several times and in 1953, a group of local business men purchased the theater. Leon Waltz and Harold Beardslee managed the concern for several years. Local business men purchased tickets each month to help support the theater for the good of the community. Eventually the business was discontinued and the building sold.

When silent films went out in the twenties, and talking pictures came into popularity, two new machines, large screen and a sound system was installed. In 1958, two hundred new seats, a wide screen, and cinemascope were added, and best available family pictures were shown.

Chinese Proverb-
You cannot prevent the birds of sadness from flying
over your head, but you can prevent them from nesting
in your hair.



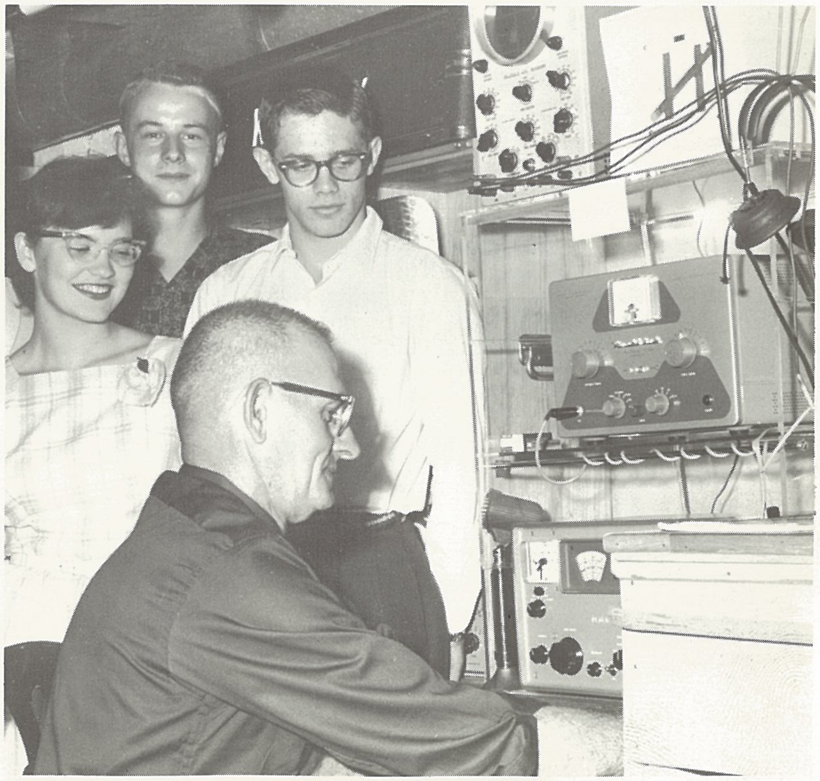
When the Ovid Theatre first opened on April 12, 1912, the show was located where the office of the Farmers Elevator is now located on North Main Street. Shown in this old photo are (l to r) Custer Waltz, owner, Roswell Smith, Claude Waltz; and Rae Worden operator of the motion picture machines.



Harvey Darling is showing an old disc phonograph to a class at the N. Elementary Building.

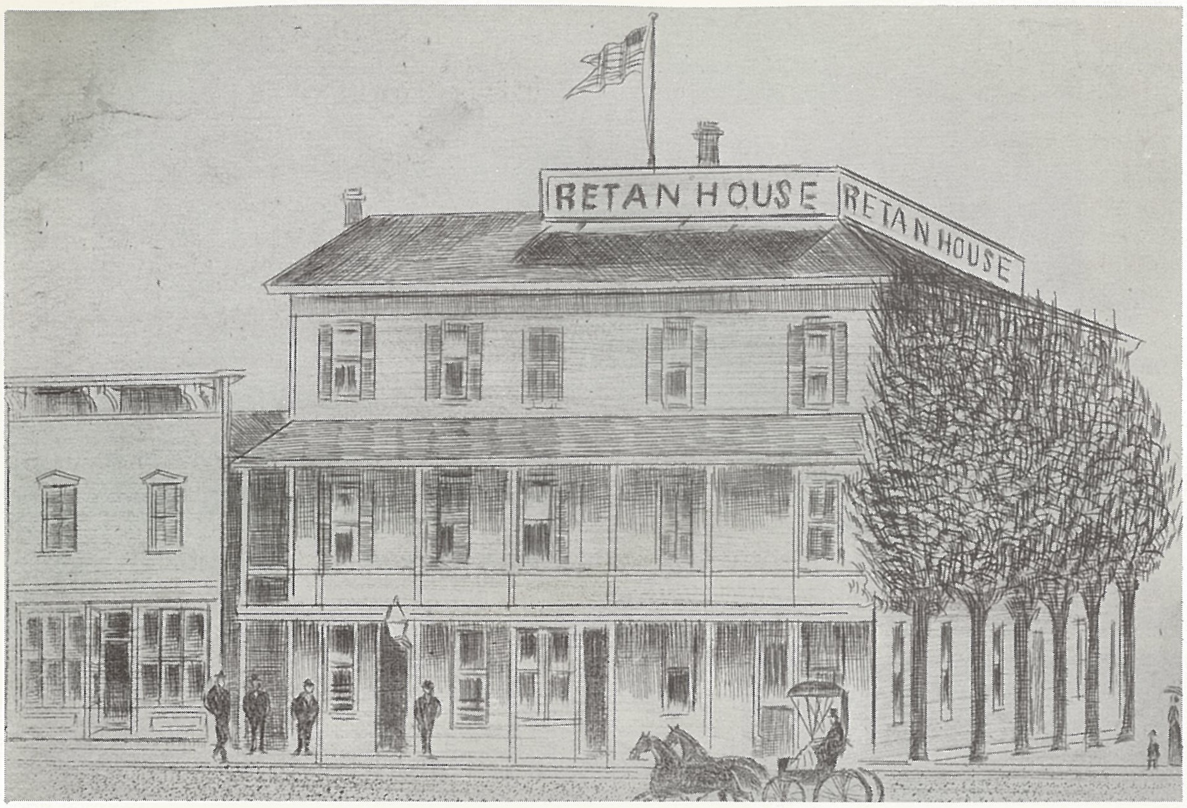
OVID
HIGH SCHOOL BAND

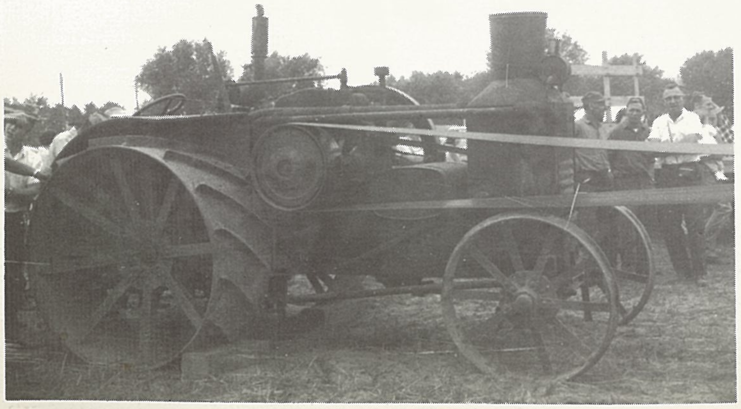
The Ovid Oil Co. presents a Marching Banner to the Ovid Marching Band of the Ovid High School. Donald Thayer and Dennis Richards representing the school, and James Whittemore and Clare Crawford from the Ovid Oil.

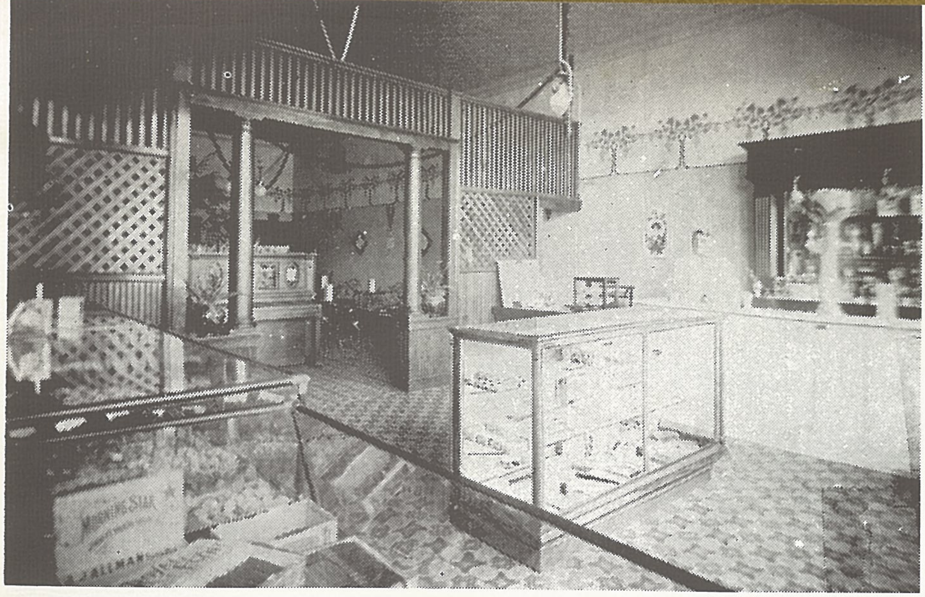


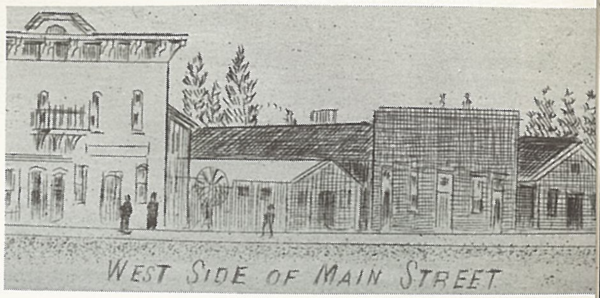
Raymond Hamer explains the intricacies of "Ham" Radio operations to some High School students.

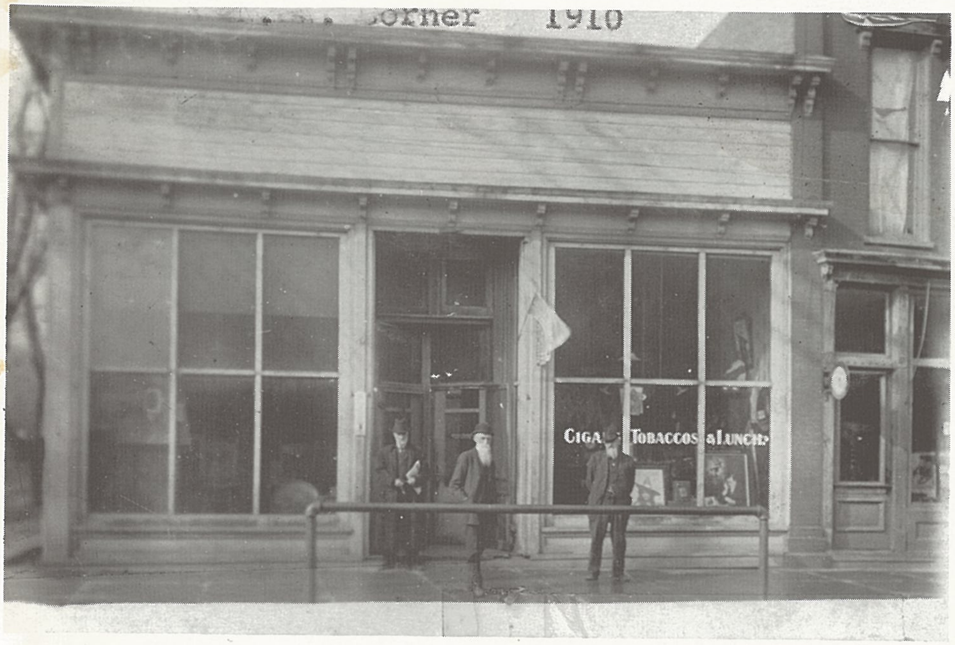
DO YOU REMEMBER?

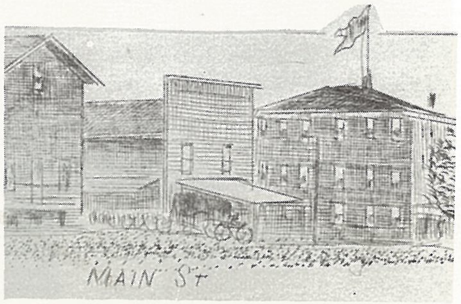

RETAN HOUSE
RETAN HOUSE

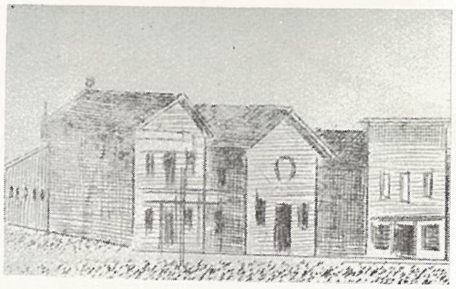


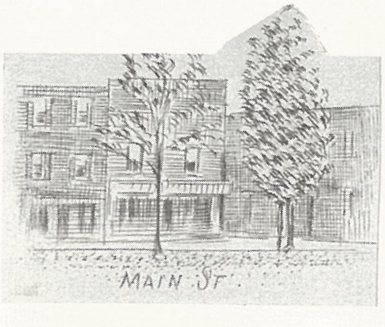

MORNING STAR

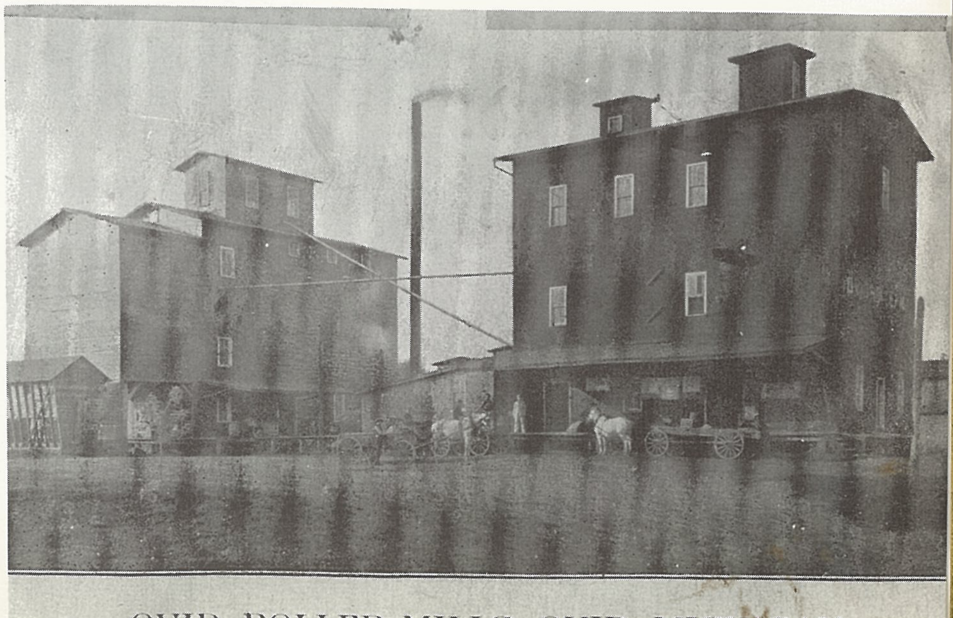

WEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET

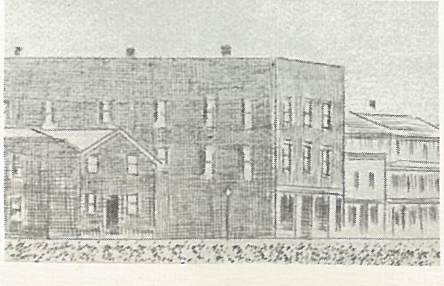

Corner 1910
CIGARS TOBACCOS & LUNCH


MAIN ST




MAIN ST


OVID ROLLER MILLS, OVID, MICHIGAN

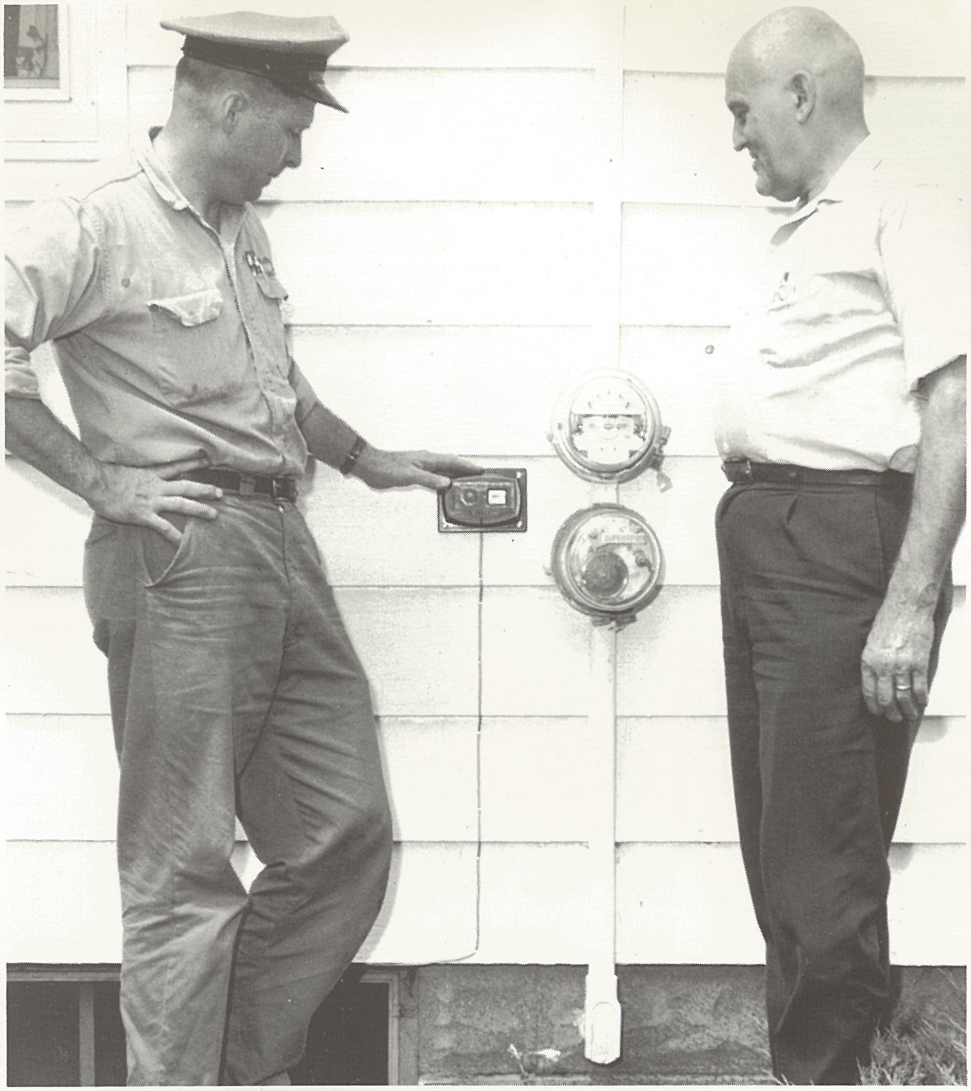


J. MOREAU.
CORUNNA
MICH.

OVID
JUNIOR
BAND.

OVID

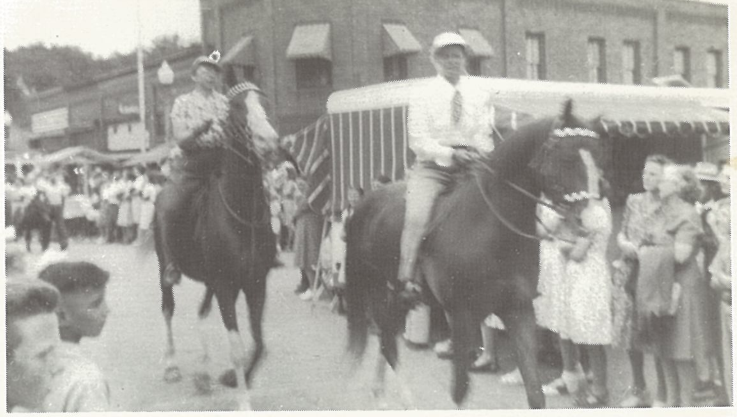
Fertilizing with Nitrogen.



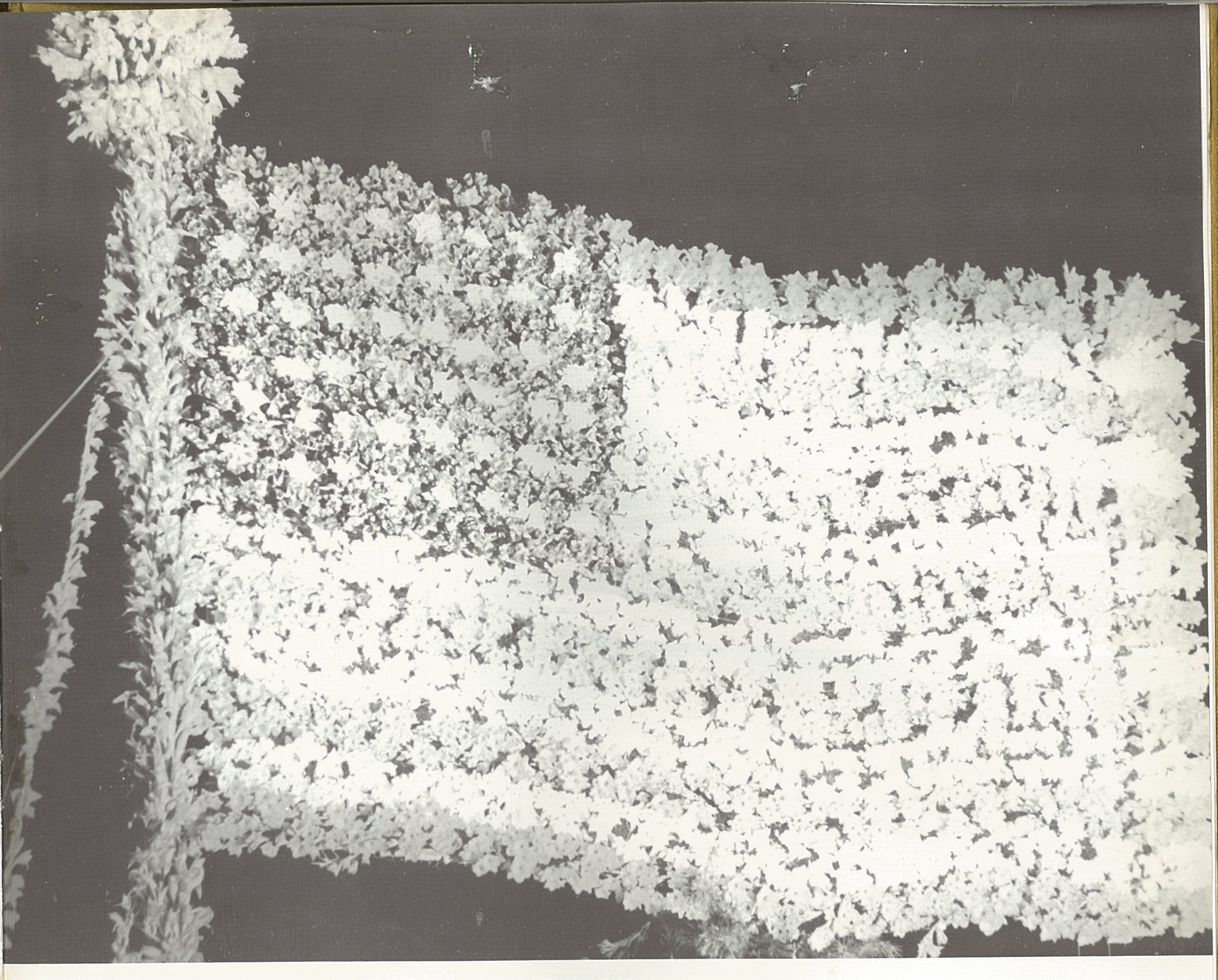
First Outside Remote Water Meter installed for Dale Sheldon. Harvey Darling, (Pres. of Village), and Dale inspect the installation.

Reuben Dennis' Turkey Farm.

Children's Pet Parade down Main Street, with Vera Self and Naomi Rautemin leading the procession on their favorite mounts.



SAVAGE SUSIE
AND
DARING D



This American Flag was made with 1800 "glads", during the Gladioli Festival held in Ovid for many years, as a combined project of Vaughn Seed Co., Ovid Community Association, Progressive and Crescent Clubs, Garden Club and all the townfolk. The flowers were planted everywhere- in gardens, front yards, parkways and vacant lots in preparation for the Festival and Homecoming. Every organization and each city department had a landscaped plot symbolizing the planters' interest.

Many of the 130 varieties of gladioli grown at Ovid were the result of hybridizing done by Mr. Harry Oven, manager of the Vaughan farms. A pioneer gladiolus hybridist, Mr. Oven helped develop this flower family from one of limited color range, (mostly red) until it now embraces nearly all the colors of the rainbow.

Epilogue

Although the people of the Past have played their part in the development of Ovid, and are gone-

Yet the influence which they exerted, while living, is still felt.

The influence of the pioneer on the lives of everyone around cannot be measured by any one rule.

The Glory of the Pioneer is not in the Past, alone.
The Past has but fashioned the Present.
The Present lays the foundation for the Future.
The Future will be strengthened by both the Past and the Present.
May the Youth of Today carry on the Ideals of the Pioneer,
so that the Cornerstones of Democracy, established by
them, will never be destroyed.

Personal Clippings

WALSWORTH
Marceline, Mo., U.S.A.